



OREGON CANNABIS CONNECTION

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Vol. 2 Issue 3

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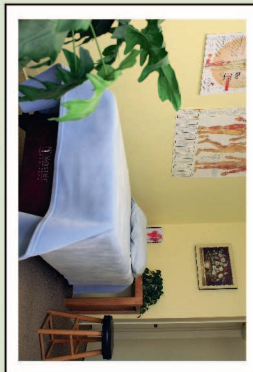
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OREGON LAW ENFORCEMENT VIOLATES PATIENT RIGHTS, PERPETUATING DRUG WAR

By Christine McGarvin, MSSW President, Institute for Cannabis Therapeutics

Oregon law enforcement agencies ran electronic checks against the state's medical marijuana patient database over 50,000 times during a one-year period from late 2009 to 2010, according to a new examination of state-provided data. These inquiries reflect checks that were done after hours, on weekends and holidays, with the implication that statewide accesses likely total in the 100,000s for the one-year period.

While a firm number of 50,123 inquiries were tabulated electronically, handwritten entries of inquiries made during office hours number in the "thousands and thousands" according to Aaron Cossel, Program Analyst for the state's medical marijuana program (OMMP).

Oregon law enforcement agencies gained

electronic access to patient information with the passage of SB 1085 in 2005. At that time and since, medical marijuana patients and activists have expressed concern over the intensity and inappropriateness of probes into private information.

There are wide differences throughout the state in how aggressively law enforcement agencies accessed the system, with two city police departments and six county sheriffs responsible for over 20,000 inquiries or 40.2% of all such checks. The most frequent users were the city police for Salem and Grants Pass and sheriffs for Benton, Curry, Douglas, Jackson, Marion, and Yamhill counties. And while responsible for over 40% of the inquiries, their home counties account for only 24% of the state's population and 26% of related crime. The fact that these counties hold almost 33% of program's patients is likely relevant.

Oregon State Police's Lt. Eric Fisher believes that there is broad abuse within the program— "33% of Douglas County investigations were OMMP-related." Since May, 2009 the state's Advisory Committee on Medical Marijuana (ACMM) has repeatedly inquired with Fisher and others about the actual numbers, such that the "widespread abuse" frequently alleged by law enforcement in public testimony might be warranted.

As it turns out, criminal convictions of OMMP cardholders are rare. Program

analyst Cossel found that fewer than 50 cardholders were removed during the most recent one-year reporting period due to criminal convictions, a rate of less than one in one thousand cardholders.

Some of the heavier examiners of patient information receive federal subsidies for their anti-marijuana efforts. The most recent budget for Jackson County shows over \$250,000 received for such efforts. In the most recent annual report, the Jackson County Sheriff reports arresting one OMMP cardholder. In the one-year period of system access, Jackson County Sheriffs ran 3,444 inquiries of patient information to net this one arrest.

Curry County fared somewhat better. During a nine month period, Curry County Sheriffs ran 476 inquiries to make three arrests, with the latter noted in their most recent State of the County Department Statements.

If LEDS inquiries don't correlate proportionately with population, patient, or behavioral crime – to what purpose are law enforcement agencies using this system? Raw, untranslated data for the study were provided by the OMMP to the state's ACMM in October of last year. However, data then were in the form of agency numbers, month of observation, and number of inquiries against the Law Enforcement Data System (LEDS). After months of seeking a translation key for the agency numbers,

Cont. on Page 8

County	LEDS Inquiries	Law Enforcement Agency	LEDS Inquiries by Agency (% of County Total)	Population	OMMP Patients	Behavioral Crimes
Benton	1,221	Benton County	1,021 (84%)	85,579	426	3,631
Curry	528	Curry County	488 (92%)	22,364	442	745
Douglas	2,673	Douglas County	2,502 (94%)	107,667	1,539	6,528
Jackson	4,084	Jackson County	3,444 (84%)	203,206	3,726	9,514
Josephine	1,556	Grants Pass City	1,074 (69%)	82,713	2,452	2,492
Marion	9,831	Salem City	5,726 (97%)	315,335	1,559	14,528
		Marion County	3,801			
Yamhill	2,616	Yamhill County	2,072 (79%)	99,193	608	3,791
Proportion of State			20,128 40.2%	916,057 23.9%	10,752 32.7%	41,229 26.3%

Oregon Gets a Special U.S. Dept of Justice Letter

By Keith Mansur Oregon Cannabis Connection

As letters and memos drop around the country from the different United States Department of Justice district offices warning different states of their possible violation of federal laws regarding medical marijuana, Oregon just received a unique version of the same letter. On June 3rd the U.S. District Attorney for the State of Oregon, Dwight C. Holton, released a letter intended to warn dispensary businesses that the are not legal, but this letter was signed by 2 law enforcement officers (LEO) and nearly every Oregon County District Attorney as well. They have all teamed up in the case of this DOJ letter, state and federal officials alike.

Apparently, Mr. Holton thought it would have more impact coming with a crap pile of signatures from these county attorneys. Only Multnomah, and Umatilla counties had not signed the letter. To no surprise Marion County District Attorney, Walt Beglau, led the charge. As our article in this issue on the Law Enforcement Data System inquiries shows, Marion county had the most inquiries to the system over a 1 year period, 9,800 for only 1,500 OMMP patients.

The letter reads, in part, "The sale of marijuana for any purpose -- including as medicine -- violates both Federal and Oregon law and will not be tolerated. People and businesses that conduct sales of marijuana face the risk of prosecution, civil enforcement action, and seizure of assets." It goes on to say, "Knowingly financing a marijuana dispensary or allowing one to operate on your property also violates federal law and could subject

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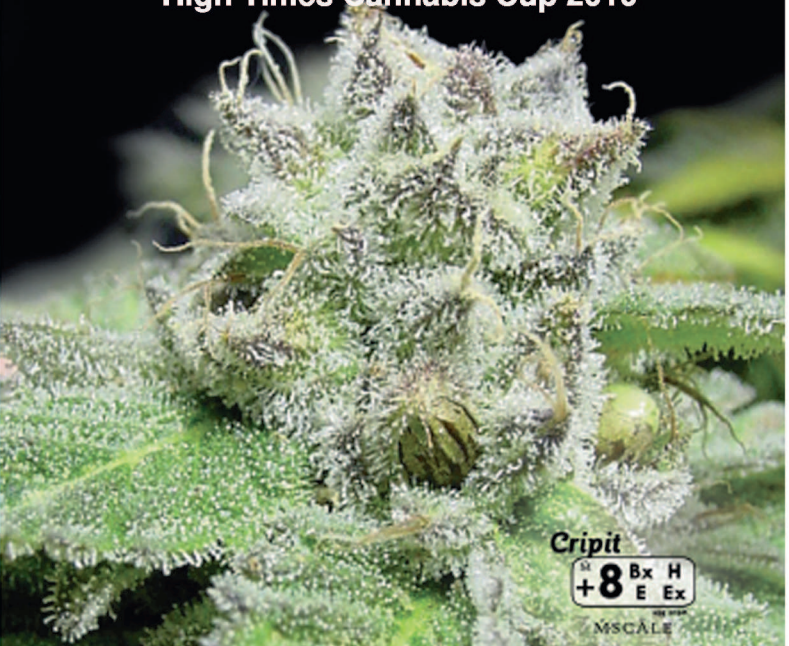
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Marijuana Cops acting as Marijuana Doctors in Oregon

Too Bad They Know So Little

By Dr. Phil Leveque
Salem-News.com

I am constantly confounded by the Oregon legislators regarding MMJ and the attitude of the marijuana-phobes in the police and the legislature.

The Oregon law is one of the more restrictive in the nation and it is a model for most other states. The police associations wimper and cry that "marijuana is out of control" while it isn't, comparing it to heroin, cocaine, meth and even alcohol which really are the problems but apparently they have tunnel vision of marijuana only. Ask anyone but the marijuana-phobe police and they will tell you that the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program (OMMP) is going well. Well, it is.

Representative Andy Olson, a retired policeman says, "I am not trying to kill the program but ensure that the option is available for patients who need it."

Then he goes into a crocodile tear statement that, "The thing that drove most of (previous) bill was a sense of abuse in the system. We wanted to move forward with something that puts in more accountability but still protects the patient and their needs."

The present bill is even toooooo restrictive so many patients who need it cannot get it. About 50,000 Oregonians have permits and though some of them do abuse the privilege, serious criminal activity is rare.

The new law would target users less than 18 years old. It may surprise the legislator to know that most of those are NOT

medical patients but they do represent the largest group of users.

DON'T MISTAKE THEM FOR LEGAL MEDICAL MARIJUANA PATIENTS!

There are NO loose rules for the "under 18" users. He decries the lack of a database for grow sites. There are about 30,000 of them. Does he have the police to visit them?

He also seems to believe that doctors are lax in signing for permits.

NO. NO. NO.

If the patient has a diagnosis of an acceptable medical condition, the doctor can sign their name. If it's not acceptable to the OMMP, THEY will not issue a permit.

Applications for permits (they are not prescriptions) have been signed by about 3,500 doctors for 40,000 patients and 20,000 caregivers.

The US Government estimates that there are 300,000 marijuana users in Oregon. Doctors who sign for patients cannot keep up with the demand with legitimate medical patients. We will probably hit 50,000 medical marijuana patients this year.

Dr. Phil Leveque is one of Oregon's most famous doctors. He fought in World War Two and now fights to make access to marijuana a matter of reality. He also was instrumental in the initial changing of Oregon law that allowed medical the use of Medical Marijuana in the first place. He now is a medical expert and staff writer for www.salem-news.com. Visit their website for more articles.



Dr. Phil Leveque and Bonnie King of Salem-News.com at last year's Hempstalk in Portland



The 5th Annual Oregon Green Free Caregrowers Cup

By Justin Jenkins
Oregon Cannabis Connection

On April 30th, I found myself attending Oregon Green Free's 5th Caregrowers Cup in Gresham, and I just want to open up by asking you a simple math question: What do you get when you add together 1 reporter + almost 500 people + 1 documentary crew + 27 plus strains of marijuana and hash – the police? And after hours of consultation with my calculator, I came up with the answer: one of the greatest days of my life, hands down.

From the moment I pulled into the parking lot with my friend, Kevin, we couldn't help but notice the overabundance of cars and people gathering, and this was a full two hours before the event started. Upon the proper check of OMMP identification, I entered and was instantly drawn to an amazing array of vendors and sponsors. There were the familiar faces such as Urb Age Designs, MRx Glass, and of course Oregon Green Free clinical services. I



The giant vapor bag made rounds during the event

also got a chance to meet with a few people I haven't met before, such as Granny Storm Crow, who I believe to be one of the best resources helping to explain the benefits of cannabis. I also met the owners of Botanica, 100% natural organic purveyor of fine cannabis genetics, such as the beautiful example of Lemon Haze they had at their table (very tasty



I may add).

Also in attendance were Grateful Garden Supply, Gayle's Beaded Beauties, Mellow Mood, Great Vape, The Portland Canna Connection, A+ Moble Music, Smokin Bliss, Eclectic Dreams Unlimited Koob, and Blind Beads. I also wanted to make a special mention to one of the coolest things I have seen in any event, was the one off painting that was started at the beginning of the cup and completed by the end, and then auctioned off for charity. Painted by Portland artist Eatcho, truly an amazing mastery of canvas was witnessed that night, and I implore you to find this artist's work, you will not be disappointed.



The first place winner with his trophy

No event of this type is complete without music. Headlining the event was Justin James Bridges, a band who plays their own personal style, a mix of blues and rock, which went great with the indoor Jack Herer I was smoking at the time. Also playing that night was Rayllway, from Portland, whose mix of rock, blues, and classic rock had my toes tapping for days afterward.

After a special appreciation award was given to Greg Bartin for all his hard work for Oregon Green Free on the Board of Directors, the announcements we had all been waiting for was made. After one month of testing 22 strains of marijuana and 5 strains of hash by 90 judges, the winners were announced:

1st Place was TonyG23 with his strain Grandaddy Purple.
2nd Place was ChronicyFaded with the strain Super Silver Sour Diesel Haze.
3rd Place was SpaceMan2 with his strain Monster.

And the results of the hash category are:

1st Place was H2o + Dirt with the strain Jacked Train (Train Wreck/Jack Herer).
2nd Place was Mystic7seven7 with the strain White Widow.
3rd Place was Agnostic Taoist with the strain Comet.

I did have a chance to test a few of these strains and I can see why it took 90 judges + 30 days + 27 strains, to give you the simplest math equation there is: what is 2 + 2? Why, of course, 4...20.

This is the point where I would like to add a special thank you to Angela Fairless and her tireless effort emceeing such an amazing event. Angela, you should be proud of yourself and of Oregon Green Free and all the volunteers organizing, providing security, cooking an amazing eastern influenced buffet (also tasty as hell), you guys did a real service to Gresham, Portland, Oregon, and all those who fight for our right to medicate. And also "thank you" to Mapache Films and their wonderful documentary crew, chronicling the event so that others can know events like this really do happen.



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Klamath Cardholders Convention & Cannabis Cup

By Steve Ball
Basin Indoor Gardening

Everyone attending the Klamath Cannabis Cup shared in on the fun making it a successful event this year. The Cannabis Pipeline in Klamath Falls was host to the Klamath Cardholders Convention on May 21, 2011. The event featured the second Klamath Cannabis Cup with a trophy for best medical marijuana, and best medible. There was a total of eight marijuana strains and eleven medible entries. The first sixty OMMP Patients to show up became judges, and the line started to form before 8am, yet the event was scheduled to start at 1pm!



The trophy cups and samples for judges.

The doors were opened at about 11:30 and judging took place for the next several hours. Each judges bag included a sample with all 20 samples and a voting form which

had no criteria or guidelines - the vote was entirely up to the judge. Also being decided was which non-profit organization would receive the money collected from the auction.

Clouds of smoke and laughter and opinions filled the room as sampling and judging took place until 3:30. Angels Homemade Edible Medibles from Medford had a table with all of their delicious treats and foods offering lollipots, salsa, caramels, cookies, fudge, marinara sauce and jams all made from growers donations and their skill in the kitchen.

Results were announced at 4:21. Winner of best medible was the Psychedelic Salsa made by Angel Armstrong-Jones of Angels Homemade Edible Medibles. The Peanut Butter Acorns by Kevin Collins and Ganja Caramels by Kristi Ball shared a very close second place missing by only one vote.

Winner of the best marijuana went to the Trainwreck #2, grown by Steve Ball, organically grown in soil, indoors. 2nd place was Cartoon, grown by Suzie Orr,

and grown indoors, also, Mike Moore's Purple Cream and "Red"s Huckleberry shared 3rd place.

The auction generated \$265 dollars from donated items such as shirts, glass pipes, artwork, drying racks and a grow light. The money will be given to the Food Bank of Klamath and Lake Counties. The next Klamath Cup is tentatively scheduled for February of 2012 so mark your calendars, grow your best, and plan to be part of the next one. Thank you to the judges, growers, cooks and organizers. Health and happiness to all.

Medical Marijuana Entries Included: Huckleberry, Cheese, Trainwreck #1, Purple Cream, Scarlett O' Hare, Cartoon, Widow Witch, and Trainwreck #2.

Medible Entries Included: Peanut Butter Bud Brownies, Peanut Butter Cups, Brownie Bites, Tincture in glycerin, Peanut Butter Ghirardelli Juanitas, Psychedelic Salsa, Peanut Butter Acorn, Ganja Caramels, Stir Fried Rice, White Chocolate Chip Cookies w/ chocolate glaze, and Caramel Apple Lollipots.



New Resources In The Albany Area

By Keith Mansur
Oregon Cannabis Connection

A new medical marijuana resource center has opened in the Albany area to provide medical marijuana patients and those curious about the benefits of medical marijuana support and information. The Linn-Benton County OMMP Resource Center opened to help provide patients resources and services that are lacking in their region of Oregon. The Linn-Benton County OMMP Resource Center (LBOMMP Center) opened on 4/20/11 at 30943-A Ehlen Dr. Albany OR, only 4 miles from the freeway, and 10 miles from the county line.

On their opening day they had a good crowd come through their center. Sheri Levit, the founder of the Resource Center said, about the crowd on the first day, "What a great day! The weather cooperated, we had over 100 card holders, live music, and a celebration BBQ." They hope to bring medical marijuana information, resources, referrals, and more services that have been lacking in

the region. She said, "There are no resource centers between Eugene and Salem, including Corvallis, and we're filling the gap."

Their first months of operating have been extremely successful. According to Levit, "Over half of the patients that come through the door on any given day are new visitors." They are also appealing to an older crowd, which may surprise many people. She said, "I would say about half of our members are over 50 years old." That is not a surprise to her. "Many older people don't understand cannabis or the OMMP program, that is why we are here, to help them learn more," Levit said.

The center is currently open Monday thru Friday, but as Levit said, "Our hours are changing and evolving weekly to keep up with need in our community." They are sometimes open to the public. "We have also added daytime hours to invite the general public in so we may provide



The LBOMMP Resource Center has a lot to do and plenty of space, they even rent space for OMMP events.

information and answer questions about the OMMP program." As for medicating during those hours, Levit said, "There will be no medicating on-site when we are open to the general public, which is currently Monday and Tuesday 11 a.m. to 2 p.m."

They offer a variety of services Vapor Bar ~ Medicating Lounge Wednesday Night theme night, Informative Monthly Meetings with Free Clone Exchange and door prizes, Hands-on Educational Classes, Cannabis Potency Testing, and OMMP Space Rentals for private parties. Levit indicated the services in this region of the state are sparse at best. Things have been going so well, they have had a need to expand already.

For more information on the LBOMMP Resource Center please call (541) 981-2507. Also visit www.lbommp.org or www.lbommp.com for more information.



HB 3664 Dies in Salem

By Bob Wolfe
Oregon Marijuana Policy Initiative

House Bill 3664 was the most significant threat faced by the medical marijuana community during this legislative session. It combined many of the worst ideas from over 20 other anti-mmj bills that were introduced at the start of the legislative session, and is being championed by the Republican Co-Speaker of the House, a former law enforcement official. As we go to press, we have just learned that the bill is dead for the session. I am now confident that we have avoided any bad changes to the OMMP during this session.

Among the major changes HB 3664 would have enacted:

Requiring the OMMP to turn over to the State Police a complete list of registered grow sites four times per year.

Changing the standard of care to qualify for the OMMP from "may provide therapeutic benefit" to "Will provide" thus enacting a higher standard than for any other medical treatment

Reduce the patient plant limit from six plants to two plants.

Require patients under age 18 to requalify four times per year, instead of once per year

Disallow residents from other states from being cardholders in Oregon

Early, there were public hearings in the House and the Senate where MMJ advocates killed early attempts to change the OMMP. After that, over a period of six week, an ad-hoc Work Group led by Rep. Andy Olson crafted bill combining the worst elements of many of the previous bills. During this period, OMPI offered to provide expert briefings on any aspect of marijuana policy. We were rebuffed. We then proposed eight changes to the OMMP to improve the program on behalf of patients. Those ideas were ignored. Finally, a public hearing was scheduled for the final draft of HB 3664 in mid-May.

The turnout for the public hearing was strong.

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Oregon News Nugs



THCF Director Pleads Guilty

The Director and Founder of The Hemp Cannabis Foundation, and nationwide group for medical marijuana clinics, plead guilty to one count of Oregon personal income-tax evasion. Paul Stanford, who also organizes the Portland Hempstalk, agreed to a sentence of 18 months of probation and 160 hours of community service.



The plea comes after he was charged for failure to file a tax return in 2008 and 2009.

Stanford believes he has been targeted for his political beliefs, stating in a Salem-News.com article, "One of the prosecutors for the Oregon Department of Justice recently told our CPA that this case 'would set back our work to end cannabis prohibition'," Stanford said. "And I believe that this is an objective of the Oregon Department of Justice's case and is one facet constituting malicious prosecution."

Attorney General Kroger said in a press release, "In these tough economic times every tax dollar is crucial, and we cannot afford to let people cheat on their taxes." Stanford refuted that, indicating that being late is not the same as cheating. Before the charges, the THCF Clinics had reported to officials that a former employee had destroyed many records, and it would take a few weeks to get the information together. Stanford said to King, "They were fully aware of the situation, and that we have been working to locate missing information, recreate financial records that had been destroyed and comply with our duty to file tax returns."

But Stanford is not deterred. He has started a signature drive to place a legalization measure on the ballot in 2012. Oregon Cannabis Tax Act, as the measures is titled, would legalize marijuana and industrial hemp in Oregon, and allow for state controlled dispensaries. It would also tax the sales and provide a needed boost to our struggling economy. For information on OCTA, go to www.cannabistaxact.org

Oregon HB 3664 Dies in Salem

The omnibus bill in Salem intended to consolidate portions of the bills introduced earlier this year has died in committee. House Bill 3664, introduced by state Rep. Andy Olson, (R) Albany, was a mishmash of the bad parts of those earlier bills, and would have been a major rollback of the OMMA.



activists were ready and turned out in force to protest. Although testimony was limited, strong statements were made, especially from Laird Funk, Chairman of Oregon's state Advisory Committee on Medical Marijuana, who is always willing to defend Oregon medical marijuana patients.

Bob Wolfe of Oregon Marijuana Policy Initiate and Todd Dalloto of Cannabis Research Committee also deserve special kudos. Bob has done an amazing job following the bills, keeping people updated, and making eloquent statements to the press. Todd was at the hearings, provided much need testimony, and also helped speak with the press at the rallies. Great job guys!

Springfield Man Gets \$7,500 for MMJ Civil Rights Violation

After the threat of a lawsuit, the Springfield Oregon police paid out a settlement of \$7,500 to a man who claimed his civil rights were violated when he was ticketed for bringing his medical marijuana into the Springfield Justice Center. On February 10, 2010, Paul McClain received the citation, even though when the citation was written, he no longer had the medication on his person.

According to The Register Guard, McClain had entered the justice center to speak with a judge about unpaid traffic fines. His bag was searched, as can be expected in court, and a Bailiff found a small amount of his medical marijuana. 2 Springfield Police (SPD) officers confirmed his status as a OMMP patient and ordered him to remove the marijuana from the premises, which



McClain did, taking it outside.

Upon his return, 2 SPD officers stopped him and issued him a ticket for pot possession. According to SPD, the officer had interpreted the OMMA as saying that state-registered patients are prohibited from carrying the drug in a public place. Sen. Floyd Prozanski, D-Eugene, sent a letter to advise Springfield Municipal Court Judge James Strickland in writing of the law's intent, which is to prohibit people from smoking or growing medical marijuana in public and not the simple act of carrying their medicine on their person or in their belongings when in a public place."

The City spokesman Niel Laudati said, "It was solely done to avoid litigation costs, and the city has no admission of wrongdoing." Yeah, right... I say, way to go Paul!

Compassion Center Celebrates 10 Year Anniversary

Compassion Center, Oregon's oldest medical marijuana clinic, support and education nonprofit, celebrates its 10 year anniversary this year. Compassion Center held an anniversary celebration from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm on June 8, 2011 at their office, 2055 W. 12th Avenue in Eugene. The public enjoyed refreshments, a free raffle and a book signing by Dru West, author of The Secrets of the West Coast Masters: Ultimate Techniques for Growing Medical Marijuana. Compassion Center has grown along with the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program (OMMP) which had about 2000 patients in 2002 and has nearly 40,000 today, with about 11% of them in Lane county.

According to Cheryl K. Smith, Executive Director, "Compassion Center serves about one-third of these local patients and others from around the state in medical clinics, teaches practical classes and provides free information over the phone and in person Monday through Thursday. Because many of our patients are disabled



and low-income, we have a low income assistance program for doctor fees, and also provide information on other social service agencies. We recently started a Chronic Pain and Illness Support Group. We also have speakers who are available to medical clinics, disease organizations, universities and other groups that want to learn more about the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program and our services."

Preliminary results of a recent survey of Compassion Center patients show that they don't fit the stereotypes that many people have about medical marijuana patients. More than half are over the age of 50, the majority do not use marijuana recreationally, nearly as many medicate or vaporize their medical marijuana as smoke it, and they most commonly use it for severe pain. Mirroring results in California, they have found that more than two-thirds of those responding to the survey have used medical marijuana to decrease or quit another substance, including pharmaceutical drugs, street drugs, alcohol and tobacco, making marijuana a viable harm reduction method. Final survey results will be available soon.

For additional information, contact Cheryl K. Smith, Executive Director, Compassion Center (541) 484-6558 (541) 484-0891. Or visit www.compassioncenter.net.

Oregon Supreme Court Rules for MMJ Patient in Gun Case

On May 19th the Oregon Supreme court ruled in favor of OMMP patient and gun owner Cynthia Willis. The case, which was heard by the court on March 3rd, was a threat to the rights of medical marijuana patients in Oregon to carry concealed weapons. Their decision was unanimous.

Sheriff Mike Winters of Jackson county appealed the case to the Supreme Court after losing in both District Court and Appeals Court. His case was based on federal laws prohibiting those who use "Controlled Substances" from possessing firearms, and was bundled with another case from Washington county. Both lower courts found that Oregon's OMMA, which allows for the use of medical marijuana, which is a schedule I controlled substance, preempts the federal law.

In their opinion, the court said, "The state's decision not to use its gun licensing



mechanism as a means of enforcing federal law does not pose an obstacle to the enforcement of that law. Federal officials can effectively enforce the federal prohibition on gun possession by marijuana users by arresting and turning over for prosecution those who violate it."

And they went on to say, "Ultimately, then, we reject the sheriffs' contention that, to the extent that ORS 166.291 requires county sheriffs to issue CHLs to qualified applicants without regard to their use of medical marijuana, the statute is preempted by the federal prohibition on gun possession by marijuana users at 18 USC section 922(g)(3). The sheriffs cannot justify their denial of the applications at issue on that ground."

Which basically means, the sheriff, being a state law enforcement official, must abide by state law and issue canceled handgun licenses to anyone who qualifies under Oregon law, even if that individual wouldn't qualify under the federal scheme. Way to go Cynthia!



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Oregon Marijuana Police Log



April 4 Klamath Falls (OSP) - A Maryland man was arrested by Oregon State Police (OSP) Tuesday night north of Klamath Falls on multiple charges when during a traffic stop the man dowsed himself and the vehicle's interior with lighter fluid and ignited it. OSP troopers removed the man before he was injured and extinguished the fire before it caused major damage to the vehicle in which troopers found about 30 lbs of marijuana.



According to an OSP Lieutenant on April 5, 2011 at 10:50 p.m. an OSP trooper stopped a rented 2011 Jeep Cherokee on Highway 97

near milepost 236 for a traffic violation. The driver was identified as being from Owings Mills, Maryland. The trooper developed probable cause to the search the vehicle. As the trooper approached the driver to inform him of the intent to search the vehicle, the man had dowsed himself and the vehicle's interior with lighter fluid. Using a lighter in his hand, he ignited the interior of the rented vehicle.

Troopers removed the man before he sustained any injury and then extinguished the fire before Chilquinn Fire Department arrived to assist. Damage to the vehicle's interior was minor.

Subsequent search led to the discovery of approximately 30 pounds of marijuana inside a suitcase in the vehicle. Estimated value of the seized marijuana is \$75,000.

The suspect was initially taken to Sky Lakes Medical Center in Klamath Falls for a medical evaluation and then lodged in the Klamath County Jail on many charges, including, Unlawful Possession / Distribution of a Controlled Substance - Marijuana, Arson in the Second Degree, Tampering With Evidence, Criminal Mischief in the First Degree, Interfering With a Police Officer, and Disorderly Conduct.

April 8 Redmond (OSP) - Two people are facing charges following an Oregon State Police (OSP) trooper's traffic stop south of Redmond when nearly 5 lbs of marijuana was found inside their vehicle. According to the OSP Sergeant, on April 8, 2011 at about 6:32 p.m. an OSP trooper stopped a 1991 Honda passenger car displaying California license plates for a traffic violation northbound on Highway 97 near milepost 127. The two occupants were identified as being from Eureka, California.

Subsequent investigation during the traffic stop led to the discovery of approximately 4.7 pounds of marijuana and small amounts of methamphetamine inside the vehicle. Estimated value of the seized marijuana is over \$10,000.

Both men are facing charges in Deschutes County Circuit Court for Unlawful Possession of Marijuana and Methamphetamine.

April 10 Ashland (OSP) - Two Washington residents were arrested when an Oregon State

Police (OSP) trooper's traffic stop led to the discovery of approximately 14 pounds of marijuana in their vehicle. The OSP Drug Enforcement Section is continuing the investigation.

On April 9, 2011 at approximately 10:00 p.m. an OSP trooper stopped a rented 2010 Toyota Corolla two-door for a speed violation northbound on Interstate 5 near milepost 11. The vehicle was occupied by a woman and a man, both from Tacoma, Washington.



Subsequent investigation with the assistance of an OSP drug detection canine led to the discovery of approximately 14 pounds of marijuana concealed inside the car's trunk. Estimated value of the seized marijuana is \$35,000.

Both subjects were arrested and lodged in the Jackson County Jail for Unlawful Possession and Distribution of a Controlled Substance - Marijuana.

April 13 Wilsonville (OSP) - A Tacoma, Washington man was arrested when an Oregon State Police (OSP) trooper's traffic stop led to the discovery of approximately 4 pounds of marijuana on Interstate 5 near Aurora.

On April 13, 2011 at approximately 3:30 p.m. an OSP trooper stopped a 1992 Ford Crown Victoria displaying Washington license plates for a traffic violation northbound on Interstate 5 near milepost 279. The vehicle's driver was identified as being from Tacoma, Washington.



Subsequent investigation during the traffic stop led to the discovery of approximately 4 pounds of marijuana inside a duffel bag in the car's trunk. Estimated value of the seized marijuana is \$10,000.

The suspect was arrested and lodged in the Marion County Jail for Unlawful Possession and Distribution of a Controlled Substance - Marijuana.

April 26 Jackson County (OSP) - Following a Oregon State Police (OSP) traffic stop west of Klamath Falls, a multi-agency investigation led by the OSP Drug Enforcement Section resulted in the search of a residence and the arrest of two people in north rural Jackson County. In addition, two Iowa residents are facing charges related to the traffic stop. A total of approximately 77 pounds of marijuana, firearms, and other evidence was seized and additional arrests are possibly pending.

According to an OSP Drug Enforcement Section Sergeant, on April 26, 2011 at approximately 5:30 p.m. an OSP trooper from the Klamath Falls Area Command office stopped a rented passenger car on Highway 140W near milepost 49 for a traffic violation. The two vehicle occupants, a man and a woman, were identified as Iowa residents,

Subsequent investigation related to the initial traffic stop resulted in the seizure of approximately 47 pounds of packaged marijuana from the occupants. They are facing charges in Klamath County Circuit Court for Unlawful Possession and Distribution of Marijuana.

Follow up investigation led law enforcement officers to Queens Branch Road in the Rogue River area where the marijuana had originated from. 2 suspects were Arrested at the Queens Branch Road location. The residence search located approximately 30 pounds of marijuana, eleven firearms, scales, packaging materials, 91 marijuana starter plants, and other evidence.



The Jackson County suspects was lodged at the Jackson County Jail for Unlawful Possession, Delivery and Manufacture of Marijuana and Conspiracy to Deliver Marijuana.

Total estimated value of the seized marijuana is approximately \$200,000.

April 27 Roseburg (OSP) - A California man was arrested during an Oregon State Police (OSP) traffic stop led the trooper to discover over 3 pounds of marijuana, marijuana hash and other evidence.

According to an OSP Sergeant, on April 27, 2011 at approximately 10:50 a.m. a trooper stopped a 1994 Plymouth Voyager van two miles north of Roseburg on Interstate 5 for several traffic violations. The driver was identified as a resident of Lucerne, California.

Subsequent investigation during the traffic stop led to the discovery in the vehicle of 3 1/2 pounds of marijuana, 2 ounces of marijuana hash, three marijuana plants and other evidence. Total estimated value of the seized marijuana is approximately \$11,000.

The suspect was transported to the Douglas County Jail for booking on charges of Unlawful Possession, Distribution, and Manufacture of Marijuana. He was cited to appear at a later date in Douglas County Circuit Court.

May 11 Keizer (OSP) - An Oregon State Police (OSP) trooper's traffic stop near Keizer led to the seizure of approximately 7 pounds of marijuana and the arrest of a Washington man. The OSP Drug Enforcement Section is continuing the investigation.

On May 11, 2011 at approximately 12:19 a.m. an OSP trooper stopped a 2006 Chevrolet Silverado pickup displaying Washington license plates northbound on Interstate 5 near milepost 261 for a traffic violation. The driver was identified as being from Enumclaw, Washington.

Subsequent investigation related to the traffic stop with the assistance of an OSP drug detection canine led to the discovery of approximately 7 pounds of marijuana concealed in a cardboard box in the bed

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of the pickup. Estimated value of the seized marijuana is \$17,000.

The suspect was arrested without incident and lodged in the Marion County Jail for Unlawful Possession of a Controlled Substance - Marijuana.



Lakeview District

May 25 Burns (OSP) - An Oregon State Police (OSP) traffic stop led the arrest of a Wyoming man east of Burns, Oregon after approximately 95 pounds of marijuana was found concealed in the vehicle. The estimated value of the seized marijuana is \$380,000.

On May 25, 2011 at approximately 12 noon, an OSP sergeant stopped a rented 2011 Chevrolet Traverse sport utility vehicle for a traffic violation on Highway 120 near milepost 136 about four miles east of Burns. The lone occupant was identified as



a resident of Wilson, Wyoming.

Subsequent investigation during the traffic stop with the help of a Harney County Sheriff's Office drug detection canine led to the discovery of 95 pounds of marijuana inside the vehicle. The marijuana was concealed in several large duffel bags and inside the nose of a kayak.

The suspect was arrested without incident and taken to the Harney County Correctional Facility. He was lodged for Unlawful Delivery, Possession and Manufacture of Marijuana.



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LEDS Abuse

Cont. From Pg 3.

Institute of Cannabis Therapeutics researcher and behavioral statistician, Dr. Russell Gould, located translation keys on a national repository of Criminal Justice information. In May, 2011 the results were distributed to members of the ACMM and media by the Oregon Marijuana Policy Initiative (OMPI).

The table shows county totals for Law Enforcement Data System inquiries into whether a person is a cardholder or an address is a grow site, the 2010 Census population for that county, the number of patients in the program, and the number of “Behavioral” Crimes, an Oregon State Police reporting category that includes drug crimes. Note that the numbers of patients shown in Gilliam, Harney, Morrow, Sherman, and Wheeler counties are estimates, but the sum of total program patients is correct.

In order to better understand how different agencies are using the system, the relative proportions of four categories

are graphed, stretching to the right of their county name. The graphed values are proportions relative to the state total in that category.

It is difficult to understand how or under what conditions LEDS access would exceed the proportions of either population or crime, other than a “fishing expedition,” but the red bars can be seen to extend beyond their associate blue and white ones in seven counties: Benton, Curry, Douglas, Jackson, Josephine, Marion, and Yamhill. The previous identified police and sheriffs are those responsible for this pattern, where inquiries are excessive.

What can explain why the Salem Police, as part of Marion County, needed to run almost twice as many inquiries (5,726) as the Portland Police (3,268)? Population and crime rates cannot. These agencies appear to be violating the law as it pertains to LEDS user restrictions and patient privacy.

We know that in some cases, the information was being used inappropriately to deny concealed handgun permits. However, a recent Oregon Supreme Court decision upheld the concealed carry rights of medical

marijuana patients, while another Oregon Court of Appeals ruling found that probes of a patient status may occur only as part of an official investigation and that the Douglas County Sheriff had exceeded his authority by probing such medical information.

Benton County presents a similar paradox. Containing the city of Corvallis, Benton County includes 31,117 people outside of Corvallis, which is much larger, totaling 54,462 citizens. In policing this larger group, the city police ran 188 LEDS inquiries. The county, policing a much smaller population, ran 1,021.

It is important to note that four of these investigating counties contain a disproportionately larger population of OMMP patients. This is shown by green bars extending to the right beyond the blue population bars in a given county. Curry, Douglas, Jackson, and Josephine counties have substantial retirement-age populations, reflected in larger cardholder populations.

Jackson County’s annual report mentions “high levels of drug trafficking” in the region, and it appears that medical marijuana community is perceived as an extension of that, in the minds of some in law enforcement officers.

However, what is missed is the ever-growing constituency of medical marijuana patients in these very counties. The problem is that police, long versed in seeing all marijuana activities as “criminal” behavior, make rather poor stewards of personal information. These data reveal a level of recklessness with private information that should not go unpunished.

Thanks to Aaron Cossel, Jennifer Alexander, Sarah Bennett, Brian Michaels, Bob Wolfe, and Russell Gould for their assistance in providing relevant information and analysis of this issue.

I am conducting an ONGOING RESEARCH STUDY OF OMMP CARDHOLDERS contacted by police/sheriff without a search warrant. HAVE YOU BEEN CONTACTED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT REGARDING YOUR STATUS AS A MEDICAL MARIJUANA CARDHOLDER? If you had an officer do a “compliance check” at your home, or were pulled over while driving and asked questions about medical marijuana, I would like to talk with you. Please call Christine McGarvin and leave a message: 541-393-8494

Dept of Justice Letter

Cont. From Pg. 3

financiers and landlords to civil and criminal penalties – including forfeiture of any assets used in support of the criminal enterprise.”

It even warns that the Oregon Medical Marijuana Act (OMMA), “does not restrict seizure of marijuana plants, nor does it protect individuals or organizations from federal criminal prosecution under the federal Controlled Substances Act (CSA).” It also warns of legal actions against landlords and owners of property used for dispensaries that they too could be charged under the CSA, and potentially lose their property.



U.S. Attorney Dwight Holton from justice.gov

Another tactic used with more and more frequency to prosecute some dispensaries in other states was pushed forth in this memo, money laundering. IRS audits and money laundering charges seem to have become favorite ways for the feds to pile on more and more layers to their cases, trying to bury the dispensary owners under a litany of charges and make them out to be really bad guys.

Their press release was no surprise. They brought up more old, uninformed and ignorant rhetoric. In it, U.S. Attorney Holton was quoted saying, “The breathtaking surge in manufacture and distribution of marijuana in Oregon is putting marijuana in the hands of more and more healthy kids -- and dispensaries are fueling this crisis. We are confident that responsible landlords and property owners will remove the operators of illegal dispensaries and 'cannabis clubs'.”

Marion County D.A. Walt Beglau also added his two cents, saying, “Drug traffickers are hiding behind the medical marijuana law to protect their sham operations. We have to rein in this outlaw atmosphere before any kid can walk into a storefront on Main Street in any town in Oregon and buy marijuana illegally.”

I refer again to the article in this issue of the paper on the LEDS, which pointed how few people registered in the program are actually charged and prosecuted for infractions of the OMMA. There is no basis for Mr. Holton's or Mr. Beglau's claims what so ever. They also have no evidence to back up their claim of access for “kids” to medical marijuana. If fact, much of the evidence shows no significant increase in use of marijuana by youths in states like California and Colorado, where dispensaries flourish.

So I guess the pressure has officially begun on Oregon, too. It was inevitable that it would come. I hope they don't act on their threats, and, instead, listen to the will of the people. Most citizens in our great state are supportive of medical marijuana and do not want to see the criminalization of people that are simply trying to get medicine to the people that need it. A better approach might be to lay off.



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Sweet Home Cardholder meeting every 1st and 3rd Monday, at the **American Legion Bldg. 1127 Long St.** beginning at **7PM**. Organized by MERCY associate Dorothy Westofkansas

OCC reported the incorrect phone number for MERCY Center in the last issue. The correct contact information is listed below. Their T.V. show is on WEEKLY on Capitol City T.V., Channel 23 in Salem.

SLOUCHING TOWARDS OAKSTERDAM:

A medical marijuana dispensary model protected by the Oregon Medical Marijuana Act

By Leland Berger
Attorney at Law

Beginning Caveat: The possession, cultivation and distribution (and, under current Oregon Supreme Court interpretation, the use) of cannabis, whether recreational, spiritual, medicinal or industrial is a violation of federal law. This article is not intended to advise Oregon patients and their providers about how to violate federal law. It is intended instead to advise about how to comply with state law, and in doing while providing patients with safe access to medicinal cannabis.

Since the passage of the Oregon Medical Marijuana Act (OMMA) in 1998, patients and their advocates have struggled with the question of how to be fairly compensated for providing excess medical cannabis to patients in need. Some advocacy groups devised patient distribution models which included membership fees and donations to the organization where a membership benefit is the free distribution of medical cannabis. Other existing protected models include the ‘World Famous Cannabis Café’, here in Portland, where medical cannabis is provided for free to Café member medical cannabis patients who pay a fee to enter the club. Two other models which work within the OMMA include providing different services for a fee (typically, but not always, counseling) and distributing the medical cannabis for no additional charge; converting a patient’s medicine into something else (hashish, hash oil or medicated edibles) at a designated grow site for a fee, or being a designated primary caregiver for multiple patients and charging a delivery fee for bringing the medicine to the caregiver’s patients.

Since the failure of Ballot Measure 74 in November, 2010, there has been an explosion of dispensaries throughout Oregon. The legality (under state law) for many of these dispensaries is predicated on interpreting ORS §475.403(7) to mean that a patient (or a patient’s designated primary caregiver) can reimburse ANY grower, not just the patient’s grower. The statute provides:

(7) A registry identification cardholder or the designated primary caregiver of the cardholder may reimburse the person responsible for a marijuana grow site for the costs of supplies and utilities associated with the production of marijuana for the registry identification cardholder. No other costs associated with the production of marijuana for the registry identification cardholder, including the cost of labor, may be reimbursed.

The legal argument supporting this interpretation emphasizes the use of the word ‘a’ in the phrase ‘person responsible for a marijuana grow site’ to mean ‘not



necessarily the person responsible for my grow site’. Although this interpretation has some superficial appeal, because it is inconsistent with the text, context and legislative history of the OMMA generally (and of SB1085 (2005) specifically) I am concerned that courts may not ultimately afford this phrase this generous of an interpretation.

Middle Caveat: This sort of lawyering, (predicting how a court will likely interpret a statute) is both fraught with peril, and subject to different opinions concerning likely interpretations. Although I hope I am wrong about this prediction, I am afraid I might be right, hence this article.

On the other hand, there is nothing which prevents a patient from helping another patient reimburse the second patient’s grower, so that the second patient’s grower is reimbursed (by that grower’s patient) for providing excess medical cannabis to the helping patient. And there is nothing to prevent the second patient from delegating or assigning the right to receive the help from the first patient (or any other patients) and also delegating or assigning the responsibility of reimbursing the grower for the costs of supplies and utilities for the excess medical cannabis. The question then becomes, what does a dispensary employing such a model look like?

The short answer is that it looks like a collective. Patients would pay a membership fee to become a member of the collective which fee would cover the cost of running the collective. Patients joining the collective would:

authorize their grower to provide any excess medical cannabis produced by the grower to the collective;

authorize the collective to collect gifts from other collective patients (‘gift donating patient’), to help the patient reimburse the patient’s grower for the costs of supplies and utilities associated with the production of the excess medical cannabis which is being donated to the collective;

authorize the collective to disburse excess medication to the gift donating patient in the collective; and

authorize the collective to disburse gifted funds to reimburse the patient’s grower.

A concern with this model is the possibility that the gifting could be viewed as a transfer for consideration between the gift donating patient and the other patient’s grower. Such an argument, however, begs the question of how else, consistent with the structure of the OMMA, can a patient make excess medical cannabis available to other

patients and have their grower reimbursed for the cost of supplies and utilities? I’m not saying that this is the only model; I am saying it is the best I could come up with within the current strictures of state law. I am sometimes asked what an appropriate business structure for such a collective would be. I am not a business lawyer, but my best guess is a mutual aid non-profit.

Ending Caveat: Free legal advice is worth what you paid for it. Ask two lawyers, hear three opinions. No one should decide that this model is consistent with the OMMA without first consulting with his or her own lawyer.

NB: The genesis of the idea for this model comes from Tigard, Oregon’s The Human Collective <http://humancollective.org/> / Executive Director, Chairman and co-founder Sarah Bennett is available for consultation about her group - <http://humancollective.org/contactusmainmenu.html>

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Editorial: Is Sherriff Winters Really That Stupid?

By Keith Mansur
Oregon Cannabis Connection

The Oregon Supreme court came down with their ruling in the Winters v. Willis case on May 19th. In their unanimous ruling, the justices found for the plaintiff, Cynthia Willis,



determining that federal gun control laws do not trump state gun laws.

This is the third loss in a row for Winters, who seems hell-bent on denying law abiding medical marijuana patients their First Amendment right to bear arms. The Circuit court of Jackson county, the Oregon State Appeals Court, and the Oregon Supreme Court all found, in an overwhelming way, for Willis. Yet, Winters’ office, along with the Jackson County D.A., seem enamored to the idea that our Federal, United States Supreme Court, might have a more favorable view of Sheriff Winters actions.

Sheriff Winter’s case, and another from Washington county that had similar facts, were based on the belief that a medical marijuana patient had no right to possess a firearm, let alone a concealed weapons permit as she was applying for. As Winters sees it, under federal law, someone who uses a controlled substance (under the Controlled Substances Act of 1970) may not possess a firearm. Oregon law makes no such stipulation.

Sheriff Winters was able to determine that Willis was a medical marijuana patient by adding his own question to the application asking if the applicant was medical marijuana patient. With his new application form as the proof he needed, he denied Willis her permit, citing the Federal statutes as his basis.

The Oregon Supreme Court in their ruling stated, “We hold that the Federal Gun Control Act does not preempt the state’s concealed handgun licensing statute and, therefore, the sheriffs must issue (or renew) the requested licenses ” They did not find in favor of a single point made by Winters’ attorney, Ryan Kirchoff of Jackson County. Instead they found unanimously in favor of Willis, showing the frivolity of Winters’ case.

But that is not the end...not yet. Cont. on Page 22

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The Drug War Has Failed!

The Global Commission on Drug Policy Releases Report That Calls For End of Drug War

This report is the most important and influential statement on drug policy since the global war on drugs began over 50 years ago. With the powerful and influential members of this commission making this statement, the beginning of the end may be near. However, resistance from Washington was fast.

The Obama administration immediately released a statement through the spokesman for the National Drug Control Policy, Rafael Lamaitre. The statement said, in part, "Drug addiction is a disease that can be successfully prevented and treated. Making drugs more available as this report suggests will make it harder to keep our communities healthy and safe."

We have printed the Executive Summary of the report here, and the names and titles of the commission members.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The global war on drugs has failed, with devastating consequences for individuals and societies around the world. Fifty years after the initiation of the UN Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, and 40 years after President Nixon launched the US government's war on drugs, fundamental reforms in national and global drug control policies are urgently needed.

Vast expenditures on criminalization and repressive measures directed at producers, traffickers and consumers of illegal drugs have clearly failed to effectively curtail supply or consumption. Apparent victories in eliminating one



The Global Commission on Drug Policy released a report on June 2nd calling for an end to the war on drugs.

source or trafficking organization are negated almost instantly by the emergence of other sources and traffickers. Repressive efforts directed at consumers impede public health measures to reduce HIV/AIDS, overdose fatalities and other harmful consequences of drug use. Government expenditures on futile supply reduction strategies and incarceration displace more cost-effective and evidence-based investments in demand and harm reduction.

Our principles and recommendations can be summarized as follows:

End the criminalization, marginalization and stigmatization of people who use drugs but who do no harm to others. Challenge rather than reinforce common misconceptions about drug markets, drug use and drug dependence.

Encourage experimentation by governments with models of legal regulation of drugs to undermine the power of organized crime and safeguard the health and security of their citizens. This recommendation applies especially to cannabis, but we also encourage other experiments in decriminalization and legal regulation that can accomplish these objectives and provide models for others.

Offer health and treatment services to those in need. Ensure that a variety of treatment modalities are available,

including not just methadone and buprenorphine treatment but also the heroin-assisted treatment programs that have proven successful in many European countries and Canada. Implement syringe access and other harm reduction measures that have proven effective in reducing transmission of HIV and other blood-borne infections as well as fatal overdoses. Respect the human rights of people who use drugs. Abolish abusive practices carried out in the name of treatment such as forced detention, forced labor, and physical or psychological abuse that contravene human rights standards and norms or that remove the right to self-determination.

Apply much the same principles and policies stated above to people involved in the lower ends of illegal drug markets, such as farmers, couriers and petty sellers. Many are themselves victims of violence and intimidation or are drug dependent. Arresting and incarcerating tens of millions of these people in recent decades has filled prisons and destroyed lives and families without reducing the availability of illicit drugs or the power of criminal organizations. There appears to be almost no limit to the number of people willing to engage in such activities to better their lives, provide for their families, or otherwise escape poverty. Drug control resources are better directed elsewhere.

Invest in activities that can both prevent young people from taking drugs in the first place and also prevent those who do use drugs from developing more serious problems. Eschew simplistic "just say no" messages and "zero tolerance" policies in favor of educational efforts grounded in credible information and prevention programs that focus on social skills and peer influences. The most successful prevention efforts may be those targeted at specific at-risk groups.

Focus repressive actions on violent criminal organizations, but do so in ways that undermine their power and reach while prioritizing the reduction of violence and intimidation. Law enforcement efforts should focus not on reducing drug markets per se but rather on reducing their harms to individuals, communities and national security.

Begin the transformation of the global drug prohibition regime. Replace drug policies and strategies driven by ideology and political convenience with fiscally responsible policies and strategies grounded in science, health, security and human rights and adopt appropriate criteria for their evaluation. Review the scheduling of drugs that has resulted in obvious anomalies like the flawed categorization of cannabis, coca leaf and MDMA. Ensure that the international

Cont. on Page 14

Government Forced NCI To Censor Medical Cannabis Facts

By Steve Elliott
Toke Of The Town

In March, the National Cancer Agency (NCI), a component agency of the National Institutes of Health, acknowledged the medicinal benefits of marijuana in its online treatment database. But the information only stayed up a few days, before it was scrubbed from the site.

Now, newly obtained documents reveal not only how NCI database contributors arrived at their March 17 summary of marijuana's medical uses, but also the furious politicking that went into quickly scrubbing that summary of information regarding the potential tumor-fighting effects of cannabis, reports Kyle Daly at the Washington Independent.

Phil Mocek, a civil liberties activist with the Seattle-based Cannabis Defense Coalition, obtained the documents as a result of a Freedom Of Information Act (FOIA) request he filed in March after reading coverage of the NCI's action. Mocek has made some of the hundreds of pages of at-times heated email exchanges and summary alterations available on MuckRock, a website devoted to FOIA requests and government documents.

The treatment database on NCI's website is called the Physician Data Query (PDQ). The PDQ entry on cannabis and cannabinoids is maintained by the Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) Editorial Board. The lead reviewer on the marijuana summary statement is CAM board member Donald Abrams, director of integrative oncology at the University of California-San Francisco cancer center.

Abrams advocates the use of cannabis in cancer treatment, and his wish to accurately portray its medical applications becomes clear early in the documents.

On March 24, just a week after the finished summary had gone online, Susan

Cont. on Page 14

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Meet Your New Pot Dealer: Big Pharma
Generic cannabis pills planned for wide use

By David Downs
EastbayExpress.com

Despite the US government's staunch opposition to medical cannabis farms in Oakland and elsewhere, the feds have begun licensing a whole lot of large legal pot grows throughout the country. But this weed is not for cannabis dispensaries and their patients; it's for Big Pharma.

The Drug Enforcement Administration told Legalization Nation in an e-mail last week that 55 unnamed companies now hold licenses to grow cannabis in the United States, a fact that contradicts the widespread belief that there is only one legal pot farm in America, operated under the DEA for research purposes. It appears as if the upswing in federally approved pot farming is about feeding the need of pharmaceutical companies who want to produce a generic version of THC pill Marinol and at least one other cannabis-based pill for a wide variety of new uses.

In other words, if big corporations grow dope with the government and put it in a pill, it's medicine. But if you grow it at home or at a city-permitted pot farm and then put it in a vaporizer, it's a felony.

"They've got to realize, as a political issue, this is going to raise a red flag," said Kris Hermes, spokesperson for medical marijuana lobby Americans for Safe Access. "Here we have companies cultivating marijuana on a mass scale to produce generic Marinol. It's going to force the government to answer

more questions than it wants to." It's a weird piece of news that comes at a strange and contradictory time for the drug war. As US attorneys send threatening letters to states and cities, including Oakland, warning them against "commercial cultivation" of marijuana, the DEA is quietly handing out licenses for commercial cultivation.

The schism has its roots in the Seventies and the drug war under Richard Nixon. Nixon ignored his staff's recommendations and named weed the most dangerous drug in America under the Controlled Substances Act. Cannabis has remained a so-called "Schedule 1" controlled substance alongside heroin and roofies (GHB) because it has allegedly no medical use and high potential for abuse.

But the only people who still believe that are old church ladies. Hermes said in an interview that decades of scientific studies and FDA approvals have proved the drug's 3,000-year-old medical efficacy and safety.



Marinol Tablets, currently the only legal form of THC approved by the FDA.

Today, sixteen states defy the Controlled Substances Act and allow qualified patients to access the drug. While federal legalization efforts have repeatedly failed, drug law reformers have also targeted the scheduling of cannabis. Filed in 1972, the first rescheduling petition was denied by the DEA 22 years later, over the objections of their own

administrative law judge Francis Young, who said in court records: "Marijuana, in its natural form, is one of the safest therapeutically active substances known to man."

In 2002, activists again tried to reschedule the cannabis plant. Today, they still await word on their petition, which is why they filed a writ of mandamus Monday in a Washington, DC circuit court that would order the DEA to rule on the matter. "The federal government's strategy has been delay, delay, delay," said Joe Elford, chief counsel for Americans for Safe Access in an e-mailed statement Monday. "The Obama administration's refusal to act on this petition is an irresponsible stalling tactic," added Steph Sherer, executive director of the organization, in the statement.

But while the government has stalled on rescheduling a cheap, patent-less pain remedy with fewer toxic side effects than Advil or Tylenol, regulators are proving to be more than happy to accommodate Big Pharma's efforts to muscle in on pot.

Cannabis' main psychoactive ingredient, THC, was isolated in the Seventies, and copied in a lab to produce the prescription synthetic Marinol. In 1999, the DEA then downgraded Marinol to a Schedule III drug like codeine, while the plant itself stayed a Schedule I.

However, Marinol never did that well with cancer patients, doctors say. Effects vary widely. With at least 66 different cannabinoids in smoked pot, patients report THC-only Marinol doesn't provide the same relief.

But Marinol is about to get a big boost. Its patent has recently expired, and a review of clinical human trials show sixteen studies under way that, if successful, would broaden generic Marinol's uses considerably beyond treating nausea in cancer patients.

In addition, researchers are using THC, as well as the number-two cannabinoid, CBD, in studies to treat obsessive compulsive disorder, schizophrenia, fibromyalgia, PTSD, and even irritable bowel syndrome. That's because pot modulates a newly discovered yet primal-cell signaling pathway called "the endocannabinoid system," with special effects in the brain and the gut.

Drug companies want to bring generic THC and CBD to new markets, and have requested that the DEA allow them to grow pot and put organic THC and CBD in pills, according to DEA records posted online last fall. But that requires the DEA to move organic THC down from Schedule I, where it is now, to Schedule III, where synthetic THC Marinol currently is.

According to DEA records, drug companies have requested just such a rescheduling. It appears as if they're likely to get it at any time, green-lighting a new generation of prescription pot pill farms.

The federal government has already boosted its marijuana production capability by 900 percent to 4.5 million grams, according documents obtained by Americans for Safe Access. The most famous federally approved pot grower, Dr. Mahmoud El Sohly, has also testified he has begun legally selling THC extracted from his Mississippi pot farm to the drug company Mallinckrodt.

Big Pharma's move on the pot industry isn't some forty-year-old hippie conspiracy theory, said Paul Armentano, spokesman for the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws. It's here.

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Dutch Government Moves Ahead With Weed Ban For Foreigners

By Steve Elliott
Toke Of The Town

The Dutch Cabinet said it will go ahead with plans to force anyone wishing to buy marijuana at the country's "coffee shops" to first get an official pass -- a move designed to stop tourists from buying cannabis.

Prime Minister Mark Rutte said he plans to begin rolling out the system in southern Netherlands later this year, reports the Associated Press. The southern part of the country is popular with French and German cannabis tourists. The



Marijuana is available at many "coffeeshops" in Amsterdam. It is not allowed to be advertised, but clever signs do the trick.

system would then be instituted in Amsterdam's famed weed cafes, which are major tourist attractions for the city, later in Rutte's term of office.

The Dutch Supreme Court must still rule on whether foreigners can be blocked entirely, Justice Ministry spokesman Wim van der Weegen said on Friday.

Regardless, the plan will prevent cafes from issuing more than 1,500 permits in all, forcing shop owners to choose between tourists and their regular customers.

That is seen by some observers as a clever way to get around the European Union requirement of treating all EU residents equally -- by not telling shops they have to ban foreigners, just tell them they can only sell cannabis to 1,500 total customers. Of course, most or all shops will pick the local regulars, rather than tourists who will only be in town a couple days.

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The Supreme Court's Stinky Ruling on Marijuana Odor: What Does it Really Mean?

By Scott Morgan
StopTheDrugWar.org

The recent Supreme Court decision in Kentucky v. King has civil-libertarians and marijuana policy reformers in an uproar, and rightly so, but it's not exactly the death of the 4th Amendment. Here's a look at how this case could impact police practices and constitutional rights.

It all started when police chased a drug suspect into a building and lost him. They smelled marijuana smoke coming from an apartment and decided to check it out, so they announced themselves and knocked loudly on the door. They heard movement inside, which the officers feared could indicate destruction of evidence, so they kicked in the door and entered the apartment. Hollis King was arrested for drugs and challenged the police entry as a violation of his 4th Amendment right against unreasonable searches.

In an 8-1 decision written by Justice Alito, the Court determined that an emergency search was justified to prevent destruction of evidence, even though police created the risk of such destruction by yelling "Police!" and banging on the door. The determining factor, in the Court's view, was that police had not violated the 4th Amendment simply by knocking on the door. Since the subsequent need to prevent destruction of evidence was the result of legal conduct by the officers, the events that followed do not constitute a violation of the suspect's constitutional rights.

Naturally, any fan of the 4th Amendment can look at this scenario and wonder

what's to stop police from "smelling" marijuana and "hearing" evidence being destroyed any time they have an urge to enter a particular dwelling. What does destruction of evidence sound like anyway, and what doesn't it sound like? Doesn't someone jumping up to destroy evidence sound the same as someone jumping up to answer the door before police kick it down? It's hard to argue with anyone who sees this result as a blueprint for facilitating not only widespread police actions that circumvent the warrant requirement, but also more innocent people being killed in their own homes in misunderstandings that could have been prevented by just a little patience from police.

These are very valid concerns, but it's also true that in the immediate aftermath of any unfortunate Supreme Court ruling, there's a tendency to commence eulogizing the 4th Amendment and proclaiming that our freedom from unreasonable searches and seizures has been abolished once and for all. That's not the case here any more than it was with any number of previous rulings we wish had been decided differently. It's not a fatal diagnosis; it merely sucks.

The fact that police were chasing a suspect when they entered the building and the fact that they smelled marijuana coming from the defendant's apartment and the fact that they heard suspicious noises after knocking were all factors in the legal outcome. Remove any one of these conditions and the case might have



Associate Justice Ruth Bader-Ginsberg was the only dissenting opinion in the "stinky" decision.

been decided differently. In other words, this Supreme Court decision does not mean police can start knocking on doors randomly and bursting in any time they hear a sound coming from inside. They must already have probable cause to believe there's a crime taking place and, fortunately, any prudent citizen can take measures to prevent their home from reeking of probable cause.

Ultimately, the lesson here is something we've been emphasizing at Flex Your Rights for a long time now: stay calm, don't expose yourself to police attention,

and know your rights in case something happens. Police often knock on doors without a warrant, so your best move is just to stay calm and make an informed decision about how to handle the situation.

If you prefer not to answer, which is your legal right, then do so by waiting silently for the officers to leave. If you choose to speak with them, stepping outside is a smart way to keep them from claiming to detect criminal evidence within your home. Unless they have a warrant, they may not search or even enter the home without your permission. Don't give it to them. Finally, understand that if the officers do have a warrant, your legal options are limited to the point that you should just focus on not getting hurt. In the event of any kind of negative outcome, remain silent and discuss your options with an attorney.

It's a shame that we even have to prepare people for situations like this in what's supposed to be a free society, but modern drug enforcement practices are so prone to error and abuse that every citizen should know how to protect their constitutional rights in an emergency situation. As the Supreme Court continues to reduce the scope of our 4th Amendment protections, understanding how to properly exercise our remaining rights becomes more important than ever before.

We'll continue to do our very best to make this information easily and widely available.

Scott Morgan is an Associate Editor at StopTheDrugWar.org and the Drug Reform Coordination Network (DRCNet). He is a graduate of Guilford College (B.S. in Criminal Justice, 2003). While at Guilford, he served as a Judicial Advocate for the college Judicial Board, frequently representing students charged with substance abuse violations on campus. Prior to joining DRCNet's staff, he completed internships with the Criminal Justice Policy Foundation and the Flex Your Rights Foundation, and he also currently works at Flex Your Rights.



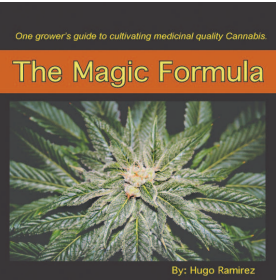
Book Review: The Magic Formula

By Justin Jenkins
Oregon Cannabis Connection

Since the 1990's, there has been a plethora of books written about growing marijuana. Ever since my first book, Closet Cultivator, by Ed Rosenthal, I have been obsessed with cultivation books. Just like college, you cannot expect to graduate to become a doctor without opening a medical book. Well, with growing, you may accidentally get something to sprout, but without a proper guide, you'll never know the finer intricacies of exactly what a plant needs. The only problem is deciding which book you should open.

The Magic Formula, written by Hugo Ramirez, may be exactly what you're looking for. If you're sick and tired of those 200-300

page books, where the only useful information you will get out of it occurs on 50 of those pages, until you have a full degree in horticulture. That's the great thing about this book, if you know how to properly measure and weigh things, and if you know how to follow instructions, The Magic Formula is the closest to a "step-by-step how-to" guide of almost every cultivation guide I've ever read. The best part about it is Ramirez doesn't tell you, "this is the way it has to be", unlike other books which makes you feel that if you don't follow the instructions to a T, you're doomed. He lays it out in every chapter, numbered lists, step-by-step, of how he approaches each stage from cuttings to pest control, to maximizing your yields. One of the most notable portions of the book is chapter 8, his recipe for a "turn-key" natural soil, with ingredients such as earthworm castings, sea bird guano, and blood meal to some of the not so commonly talked about alfalfa meal, Jersey Greensand, and Azomite. He also included optional ingredients to create a vegan soil mix. And I gotta say, I have no complaints with his soil mix, it is extremely well rounded enough to make for some very happy little ladies.



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National News Nugs



One Hitters Softball Team Can't Get a Game

The softball season in Washington D.C. Is under way, and the Office of National Drug Control Policy team, the “Czardinals” have refused to play the “One Hitters”, a team comprised of drug-policy reform organizations wanting to “end the war on drugs”. Claiming a scheduling conflict was to blame this year , the Czardinals have not played them in 6 years. According to a press release from the One Hitters (yes, I said a press release), they said, “In 6 years, the team found one reason or another to avoid taking the field against this team of individuals dedicated to reforming the out-of-date and ineffectual policies promoted by the ONDCP. This behavior is being mimicked on the national stage by the ONDCP as well.” According to Steve Elliott, The One Hitters still hope that Czardinals will put aside ideological differences and accept their invitation to play a softball game this summer on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.. We can only hope!



Fired Coors Employee Wins MMJ Unemployment Case

Former Coors employee and medical marijuana patient, Paul Curry, has been awarded unemployment benefits. He was fired in March for testing THC positive by urinalysis. Urinalysis measures THC metabolites left behind, which can remain for months after use. Curry had passed a swab test which would have indicated current presence of THC in his system. The test was performed in response to a workplace incident for which swab tests are routine. “I had taken some medical marijuana about two weeks before the event. That is the last time. I was not impaired in any way,” Curry told the Colorado Independent. He believes the urinalysis was performed simply because he told his supervisor he was a medical marijuana patient. Curry had been denied unemployment benefits on his first application. He recently took the case to a hearing officer, bringing attorney Robert Corry with him, the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment reversed the decision and Curry has been awarded benefits. This decision is contrary to precedent and not required under Amendment 20.



“This ruling says that he was not terminated through any fault of his own. It says that Coors was in the wrong. With this ruling, there can be no other reason for his termination than discrimination. Coors needs to take this ruling very seriously,” Corry said.

Military Police Attack Marijuana Protesters In Brazil

By Steve Elliott, Toke Of The Town

Prohibited from holding a "March for Marijuana," cannabis advocates in Brazil's largest city had agreed with police to protest instead in defense of freedom of expression. But minutes after allowing the march, the Military Police brutally attacked the unarmed demonstrators with stun bombs, tear gas and rubber bullets.

About 1,000 people showed up for the rally Saturday in São Paulo's financial heart. Television images showed riot troops charging toward the protesters when they tried to march down the busy Paulista Avenue.



Protesters, journalists covering the event, drivers who happened to be traveling in the opposite direction of the march and people who were simply walking down the street at the time became victims of police violence, reports Ricardo Galhardo at Último SegundoÚltimo Segundo .

Henrique Carneiro, a professor of history at the University of São Paulo who was taking part in the march, was injured after being hit in the head with a percussion stun bomb and had to be taken to the hospital.

Four of the protesters were arrested.

Students Lucas Gordon and Julio Delmanto, both members of the group 'Desentorpecendo a Razão' (Stretching Reason), which organized the march, were arrested and taken to the 78th Police Precinct with allegations of "disobedience." Arthur Tobias was reportedly arrested after police officers overran him, and a boy identified only as Cunha were taken to the 4th Police Precinct.

The original aim of the organizers was to hold a march for the legalization of marijuana, the "Marcha da Maconha." However, Judge Teodomiro Mendes, of the Court of Justice of São Paulo, on Friday afternoon banned that march. At that point, organizers agreed to instead hold a march in defense of freedom of expression, only to be attacked by the very police who had agreed to allow the demonstration.

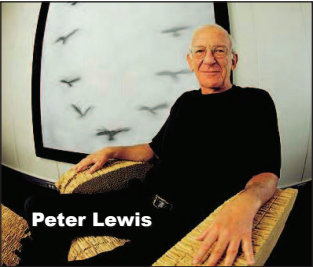
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Ohio Billionaire Seeks Medical Marijuana Vote

By Phillip Smith, StopTheDrugWar.org

Cleveland-based billionaire Peter Lewis, the chairman of Progressive Insurance, wants Ohioans to vote on becoming a medical marijuana state. Through his attorney, he has put out a request for proposals for an Ohio medical marijuana initiative that will "create a model for future campaigns in other states." Lewis has given millions of dollars to drug reform campaigns across the country, including \$900,000 last year to the Marijuana Policy Project and another \$200,000 for Proposition 19 in California. Now, his drug reform funding is channeled through his attorney, Graham Boyd of the ACLU Drug Law Reform Project.

Ohio "stands out as having particularly high levels of voter support," the request said. It seeks proposals that include drafting ballot language, qualifying for the ballot, building a campaign organization, communicating with voters, and raising money -- although it is probably safe to assume Lewis would kick in a substantial sum himself.



But it's not a done deal yet. "You shouldn't take it as a given that there will be a ballot initiative this campaign," said Boyd told Forbes on Tuesday. "But we want to see proposals."

Lewis's interest in marijuana reform is personal. He was arrested for pot and hash possession in New

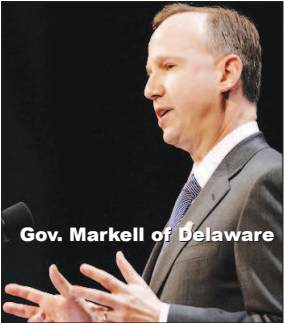
Zealand in 2000, but got the charges dropped by making a generous donation to a local drug treatment center.

Fifteen states and the District of Columbia have legalized the use of marijuana for medical purposes, but only one of them, Michigan, is in the Midwest. In Michigan, it won through a voter initiative; if someone is on the ball in the Buckeye State, Ohio could be next.

Delaware becomes 16th State to legalize medical marijuana.

Gov. Jack Markell has signed legislation making Delaware the 16th state to allow the use of medical marijuana. On May 13th, he signed the bill with little fanfare and ceremony. The bill allows for medical use for those over 18 years of age and also allows for "compassion centers" that will dispense medical marijuana under state regulation.

The bill received final legislative approval May 11th. A spokesman said Markell wanted to sign the measure as quickly as possible because of the lengthy time that will be needed to get a state-run system for distributing medical marijuana up and running.



The new law allows people 18 and older with certain serious or debilitating conditions that could be alleviated by marijuana to possess up to six ounces of the drug. Qualifying patients would be referred to state-licensed and regulated "compassion centers," which would be located in each of Delaware's three counties. The centers would grow, cultivate and dispense the marijuana.

Montana's Governor Vetoes MMJ Repeal Bill.

Montana's Democratic Governor, Brian Schweitzer , whipped out a red hot branding iron on the capitol steps and proceeded to brand, and then burn to pieces, the medical marijuana repeal bill the legislature sent to his desk for signing. Staging a press for the event, Schweitzer had 3 different size branding irons, all spelling "Veto", which he used to reject a total of 17 bills, using the largest branding iron on the most frivolous and divisive legislation.

House Bill 161 would have repealed Montana's medical marijuana ballot initiative that passed with substantial voter approval in 2004. There are



currently 30,000 medical marijuana cardholders in Montana, and a complete repeal would put them in a lurch. Schweitzer did not agree with the full repeal, but he has allowed another piece of legislation to pass into law, without his signature.

Under the new rules, fewer people will qualify for medical marijuana cards and dispensaries will be out of business. Each patient will have to designate who their grower is and each grower will be restricted to growing for no more than three patients. Growers will not be allowed to charge patients any money for the marijuana. Patients claiming chronic pain will need two doctors' recommendations.

The Montana Cannabis Industry Association filed suit to block implementation of the law, citing it as unconstitutional. But, the State's Attorney Generals office is apparently ready to defend its constitutionality, The Billings-Gazette reported:

“The attorney general’s office said the new provisions are intended to be faithful to the original intent of the ballot measure, while correcting and reining in the unintended and undesirable abuses and problems that have undeniably occurred.”



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The Drug War Has Failed!

Cont. From Pg. 10

conventions are interpreted and/or revised to accommodate robust experimentation with harm reduction, decriminalization and legal regulatory policies.

Break the taboo on debate and reform. The time for action is now.

Commission Members and Title/Position

Asma Jahangir, human rights activist, former UN Special Rapporteur on Arbitrary, Extrajudicial and Summary Executions, Pakistan

Carlos Fuentes, writer and public intellectual, Mexico

Cesar Gaviria, former President of Colombia

Ernesto Zedillo, former President of Mexico

Fernando Henrique Cardoso, former President of Brazil (chair)

George Papandreou, Prime Minister of Greece

George P. Shultz, former Secretary of State, United States (honorary chair)

Javier Solana, former European Union High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, Spain

John Whitehead, banker and civil servant, chair of the World Trade Center Memorial Foundation, United States

Kofi Annan, former Secretary General of the United Nations, Ghana

Louise Arbour, former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, President of the International Crisis Group, Canada

Maria Cattaui, Petroplus Holdings Board member, former Secretary-General of the International Chamber of Commerce, Switzerland

Mario Vargas Llosa, writer and public intellectual, Peru

Marion Caspers-Merk, former State Secretary at the German Federal Ministry of Health

Michel Kazatchkine, executive director of the Global

Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, France

Paul Volcker, former Chairman of the United States Federal Reserve and of the Economic Recovery Board

Richard Branson, entrepreneur, advocate for social causes, founder of the Virgin Group, co-founder of The Elders, United Kingdom

Ruth Dreifuss, former President of Switzerland and Minister of Home Affairs

Thorvald Stoltenberg, former Minister of Foreign Affairs and UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Norway

NCI Pressured

Cont. From Pg. 10

Weiss -- chief of the Office of Science Policy and Communications within the National Institutes on Drug Abuse (NIDA) sent NCI officials an email saying her agency had just become aware of the summary. Weiss told them the NIDA wanted the summary changed to acknowledge that the FDA hasn't approved marijuana; to take away any implication that it was recommending prescribing marijuana; to highlight the supposed "addiction potential" of marijuana; and to link to the NIDA's own page on the supposed "adverse effects of marijuana."

The NCI balked at the last two requests: "I am unaware of any convincing evidence indicating that marijuana is addictive," communications officer Rick Manrow of the the NCI reasonably said.

But the agency agreed the first two requests were fair. The CAM board grappled for days with how to cooperate with the NIDA without compromising its independence or editorial integrity. Meanwhile, yet more federal agencies offered their two cents' worth.

"[A press officer with the FDA] contacted me this morning because he has been getting calls from FDA staff, as well as at least one high-profile reporter, asking about NCI's 'endorsement of medical marijuana.' I provided him with the background I had," wrote Brooke Hardison, NCI media relations analyst. "He needs to provide information for staff at the FDA, and they are trying to figure out how to respond to this issue. I suggested that it might be good for him to have a conversation with those more closely involved in this issue."

Meanwhile, national attention to the story continued to grow, and NIDA, notoriously anti-pot, was worried about this whole "marijuana treats cancer" thing.

On learning that Ethan Nadelmann, founder and executive director of the Drug Policy Alliance had tweeted about the summary, the NIDA's Weiss wrote to NCI, "We will be contacting our colleagues at ONDCP [Office of National Drug Control Policy] just to give them a heads up about it."

Weiss also wrote to her NIDA colleagues, saying "We think that ONDCP needs to be informed."

The ONDCP, of course, is the office of the Drug Czar. Current czar Gil Kerlikowske, as with all drug czars, is bound by law to oppose marijuana legalization for any purpose, even to save cancer patients.

In any event, the NCI caved to the NIDA's demands by removing any implied support for prescribing marijuana -- nothing that the FDA hasn't approved cannabis as as prescription drug -- and, much to the consternation of lead reviewer Abrams, removing a reference to marijuana's anti-tumor properties.

"You know, the epidemiological data from Kaiser and Tashkin do possibly support an anti-tumor effect in humans," Abrams wrote. "After reflecting for a few hours, I am not happy that NIDA has been able to impose their agenda on us. The text was vetted by the whole Board. I would ask that we [involve] the whole Editorial Board in the discussion before being bulldogged.

"I am considering resigning from the Board if we allow politics to trump science!" Abrams wrote.

All the relevant CAM board members eventually agreed to the version that went up on March 29 and 30. That last day was when Phil Mocek submitted his FOIA request and is thus the last day that appears in the records given to him.

It is interesting to note that, toward the end of the correspondence record, NCI and NIDA officials were discussing the latter agency providing further information on the supposed "adverse effects of marijuana" so that the CAM Board could "take it into consideration" during its May 6 meeting. Several NCI and CAM members said any "convincing evidence" could result in larger changes to the entry.

NIDA prepared a list of anti-marijuana talking points, including the claim that nine percent of cannabis users "become addicted to the drug" and a completely undocumented claim that marijuana use leads to permanent cognitive impairment, in the hopes of causing just such changes in the NCI's entry.

But, the Independent reports, May 6 came and went without any additional changes being made to the database.

One can only imagine the kinds of behind-the-scenes wrangling that continues as we speak.

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Mr. Jenkin's Journal: Op-Ed

By Justin Jenkins

Oregon Cannabis Connection

Allow me to introduce myself. Most of you know me as Justin Jenkins, but in the eyes of the federal government, I have a different name. "Criminal".

I am a medical marijuana patient through the OMMP program here in the beautiful state of Oregon. My illness allows me 1.5 pounds of marijuana, a caregiver, and a grower. The federal government allows me 0.0 pounds, no caregiver, and unless I need to make it a little more obvious, no grower.

The federal government has provided medical marijuana themselves. Somehow they get away with allowing a facility down in Tennessee to supply marijuana to "federal" medical marijuana patients. This has been going on for years. Yet, this facility, to my knowledge, has never been raided, and I'm pretty sure Tennessee itself has no medical marijuana program in place. Now my state, Oregon, says I am allowed medical marijuana. But, why does the federal government insist on raiding dispensaries in our state. They are helping thousands of people obtain what the government obviously believes is good enough for four patients nationally, yet in a single state, is not good enough for anyone.

In 2009, the Obama Administration released what was dubbed the "Ogden Memo", basically indicating that they will no longer make prosecutions a top priority in legal medical marijuana states. Yes, finally progress. But wait, there's more. Just two short years later, we now have the "Haag Memo", stating that business as usual is what we should just get used to as the norm. It indicates DEA raids, promptly followed by federal prosecutions of marijuana dispensaries, will be vigorously enforced.

Now the way I see it, the more you restrict legal means for legal patients, the more we will be perpetuating the idea that we are criminals in the eyes of the feds. You would think that the government's best option and most prudent choice would be to be able to put the dispensaries into a system where they would be able to track every dollar from point of purchase back to the grower. The black market only exists when regulated markets leave holes, and this is a Grand fucking Canyon. Why can't we have a system where we know the money goes to our communities and not Juarez Mexico. It comes to the point, well I guess it came to that point, I dunno, maybe 70 years ago, that you gotta sit back and think, "what the hell are they thinking?"

I appreciate you sitting back and reading my rant, but I am truly fed up with not knowing if I'm a criminal or an individual just trying to better my life. Just like most of you reading this, until we stop being stagnant and understand we have 43 million friends (one million of which are supposed to be legal) that should stand up next to the patients and say "we are not criminals", we are friends, family, neighbors, public service workers, and the most hypocritical of all, yes, even politicians. But of all those groups I've mentioned, only one of them looks like the real criminals to me.

Justin Jenkins is an Associate Editor with Oregon Cannabis Connection, co-host of Rogue Cannabis Radio, and the former President of Winona State NORML in Minnesota

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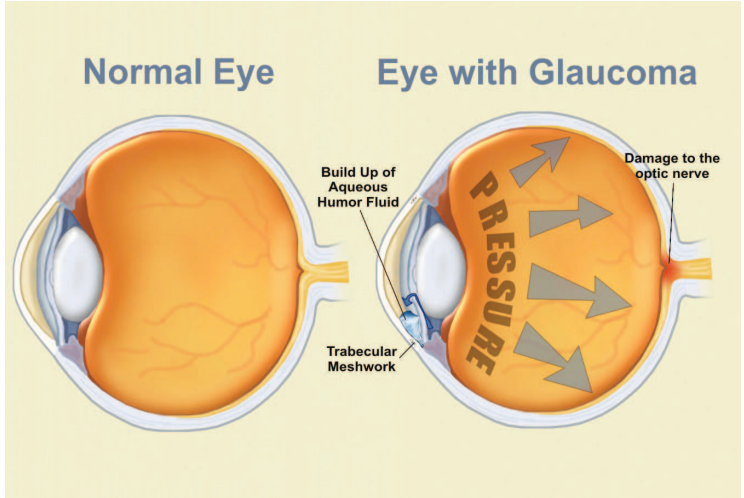
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Medical Marijuana and Glaucoma

By Mike Sampson

Glaucoma is a condition in the eye that can eventually end in blindness. Of the four million Americans estimated to have some form of glaucoma, as many as half of them are unaware of it.



Glaucoma is commonly caused by an increase in pressure in the eye, and can eventually lead to blindness. Medical marijuana has proven to be an effective treatment for many patients.

According to the World Health organization, glaucoma is the second leading cause of blindness. Among African Americans, that statistic jumps to number one.

Most people familiar with glaucoma know that the elderly are particularly susceptible to the condition, but anyone of any age can be affected without warning. Some research shows that glaucoma may be hereditary, but science is still unclear exactly what causes glaucoma to develop.

What has been found is, along with other medications, medical marijuana has greatly reduced the degeneration of vision brought on by glaucoma. Commonly, pressure in the eye is one of the causes of glaucoma. Medical marijuana is beneficial due to some of its chemicals reducing intraocular pressure, also known as IOP, by as much as twenty-five percent.

Some say it's an insignificant gain when you compare the harmful side effects of marijuana, but that conclusion is somewhat biased and without true facts. While marijuana can cause an elevated heart risk to some elderly patients, most

people report little to no side effects whatsoever with regular, medicinal use of marijuana. That's a far cry from the pages of possible side effects and horror stories that accompany even the mildest of over the counter drugs.

Marijuana is not a magical cure-all in the treatment of glaucoma. There are - and should be - other medications and remedies, including drops that further reduce pressure in the eye by dilation and other means. Unfortunately, many of these

methods can lose their effectiveness over time, and since there is currently no known cure for glaucoma, alternative treatment means are not only preferable, but necessary.

Scientists are hard at work attempting to create a delivery system for glaucoma patients that will allow them to reap the benefits of medical marijuana without the need to smoke

it. Thus far, alternative delivery systems for medical marijuana have proven less successful than inhalation, or even ingesting the plant in small doses. It is highly recommended that after the age of 40, routine eye checks are administered by a professional every other year. This will greatly decrease the odds of late stage glaucoma permanently affecting vision.

Article Source:
http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Mike_Samson

The History of Medical Marijuana

By Andrew Stratton

The debate rages on regarding the effectiveness and wisdom of partaking in medical marijuana. Marijuana, also called cannabis, is derived from the hemp plant. Its leaves, stems, and seeds may be smoked, vaporized into inhalable form, and made into a pill or liquid form. Its color may be green, brown or gray. Its active chemical ingredient is THC, which is short for "delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol".

Some may think this drug has only been around for a few decades, but this isn't true. It's been around for a very long time. Here is a historical timeline of medical marijuana.

- There are conflicting reports dating as far back as 2727 BC. It is said that a Chinese Emperor allowed medical marijuana as a cure for constipation, female bodily problems, malaria, gout, and rheumatism.

- In the year 2000 BC, it is reported that Egyptians began to use this drug as a treatment for painful eye conditions.

- In India, in the year 1000 BC, cannabis was used to alleviate pain during childbirth, as an anesthetic, to overcome hunger and thirst issues along with various other health concerns.

- In the years between 70 and 200 BC, Rome and Greece were reported advocates of the drug in order to alleviate pain associated with earaches, edema and the reduction of general inflammation.

- In the year 1621 (AD), an English clergyman stated that cannabis cured depression.

- In the mid-1700's, it was used in Africa for a multitude of health ills, including



hemorrhoids, tetanus, cholera, rheumatism, hay fever, skin disorders and asthma.

- During the late 1700's, Napoleon's army used the drug as a sedative as well as a pain reliever.

- In the 1850 United States census, it was reported that there were many thousands of acres of cannabis growing. There were reportedly more than 8,000 plantations devoted to the product.

- Between the mid-1800's and early 1900's, it gained a reputation for being an intoxicant rather than as a health aid.

- Even though the reputation of being an intoxicant was spreading, medical marijuana was still recognized as helping with mental illnesses such as manic depression, seizures and various emotional maladies.

- Through the 1900's and into the 2000's, marijuana has had its ups and downs in terms of its reputation. It had become an illegal, recreational drug which was extremely popular with the rebellious youth of the 1960's and 1970's. It was called the "gateway drug", meaning that smokers of the illicit substance could get pulled through the "gateway" and into more serious drugs.

Many people within the medical community still recognized the substance for its health affirming properties. The controversy continues; thirteen of the fifty United States have allowed it to be legalized as a medicine; others are investigating the possibility.

Article Source:
http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Andrew_Stratton

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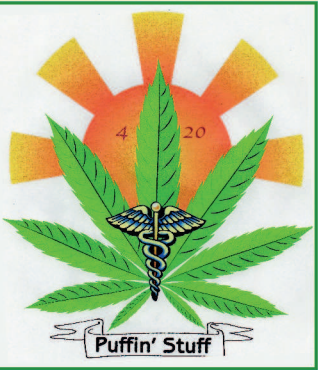
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Medical Marijuana For ADHD

By Katherine Ellison

At the Peace in Medicine Healing Center in Sebastopol, the wares on display include dried marijuana - featuring brands like Kryptonite, Voodoo Daddy and Train Wreck - and medicinal cookies arrayed below a sign saying, "Keep Out of Reach of Your Mother."

Several Bay Area doctors who recommend medical marijuana for their patients said in recent interviews that their client base had expanded to include teenagers with psychiatric conditions including attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.

"It's not everybody's medicine, but for some, it can make a profound difference," said Valerie Corral, a founder of the WoMen's Alliance for Medical Marijuana, a patients' collective in Santa Cruz that has two dozen minors as registered clients.

Because California does not require doctors to report cases involving medical marijuana, no reliable data exist for how many minors have been authorized to receive it. But Dr. Jean Talleyrand, who founded MediCann, a network in Oakland of 20 clinics who authorize patients to use the drug, said his staff members had treated as many as 50 patients ages 14 to 18 who had A.D.H.D. Bay Area doctors have been at the forefront of the fierce debate about medical marijuana, winning tolerance for people with grave illnesses like terminal cancer and AIDS. Yet as these doctors use their discretion more liberally, such support - even here - may be harder to muster, especially when it comes to using marijuana to treat adolescents with A.D.H.D.

"How many ways can one say 'one of the worst ideas of all time?' " asked Stephen Hinshaw, the chairman of the psychology department at the University of California, Berkeley. He cited studies showing that tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC, the active ingredient in cannabis, disrupts attention, memory and concentration - functions already compromised in people with the attention-deficit disorder.

Advocates are just as adamant, though they are in a distinct minority. "It's safer than aspirin," Dr. Talleyrand said. He and other marijuana advocates maintain that it is also safer than

methylphenidate (Ritalin), the stimulant prescription drug most often used to treat A.D.H.D. That drug has documented potential side effects including insomnia, depression, facial tics and stunted growth.

In 1996, voters approved a ballot proposition making California the first state to legalize medical marijuana. 15 other states have followed suit - allowing cannabis for several specified, serious conditions including cancer and AIDS - but only California adds the grab-bag phrase "for any other illness for which marijuana provides relief."

This has left those doctors willing to "recommend" cannabis - in the Alice-in-Wonderland world of medical marijuana, they cannot legally prescribe it - with leeway that some use to a daring degree. "You can get it for a backache," said Keith Stroup, the founder of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws. Nonetheless, expanding its use among young people is controversial even among doctors who authorize medical marijuana.

Gene Schoenfeld, a doctor in Sausalito, said, "I wouldn't do it for anyone under 21, unless they have a life-threatening problem such as cancer or AIDS."

Dr. Schoenfeld added, "It's detrimental to adolescents who chronically use it, and if it's being used medically, that implies chronic use."

Dr. Nora D. Volkow, director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, said she was particularly worried about the risk of dependency - a risk she said was already high among adolescents and people with attention-deficit disorder.

Counterintuitive as it may seem, however, patients and doctors have been reporting that marijuana helps alleviate some of the symptoms, particularly the anxiety and anger that so often accompany A.D.H.D. The disorder has been diagnosed in more than 4.5 million children in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Researchers have linked the use of marijuana by adolescents to increased risk of psychosis and schizophrenia for people genetically predisposed



to those illnesses. However, one 2008 report in the journal Schizophrenia Research suggested that the incidence of mental health problems among adolescents with the disorder who used marijuana was lower than that of nonusers.

Marijuana is "a godsend" for some people with A.D.H.D., said Dr. Edward M. Hallowell, a psychiatrist who has written several books on the disorder. However, Dr. Hallowell said he discourages his patients from using it, both because it is - mostly - illegal, and because his observations show that "it can lead to a syndrome in which all the person wants to do all day is get stoned, and they do nothing else."

Until the age of 18, patients requesting medical marijuana must be accompanied to the doctor's appointment and to the dispensaries by a parent or authorized caregiver. Some doctors interviewed said they suspected that in at least some cases, parents were accompanying their children primarily with the hope that medical authorization would allow the adolescents to avoid buying drugs on the street.

A recent University of Michigan study found that more than 40 percent of high school students had tried marijuana. "I don't have a problem with that, as long as we can have our medical conversation," Dr. Talleyrand said, adding that patients must have medical records to be seen by his doctors.

The Medical Board of California began investigating Dr. Talleyrand in the spring, said a board spokeswoman, Candis Cohen, after a KGO-TV report detailed questionable practices at MediCann clinics, which, the report said, had grossed at least \$10 million in five years.

Dr. Talleyrand and his staff members are not alone in being willing to recommend marijuana for minors. In Berkeley, Dr. Frank Lucido said he was questioned by the medical board but ultimately not disciplined after he authorized marijuana for a 16-year-old boy with A.D.H.D. who had tried Ritalin unsuccessfully and was racking up a record of minor arrests.

Within a year of the new treatment, he said, the boy was getting better grades and was even elected president of his special-education class.

"He was telling his mother: 'My brain works. I can think,'" Dr. Lucido said. "With any medication, you weigh the benefits against the risks," he added.

Even so, MediCann patients who receive the authorization must sign a form listing possible downsides of marijuana use, including "mental slowness," memory problems, nervousness, confusion, "increased talkativeness," rapid heartbeat, difficulty in completing complex tasks and hunger. "Some patients can become dependent on marijuana," the form also warns.

The White House's signals of more federal tolerance for state medical marijuana laws - which pointedly excluded sales to minors - reignited the debate over medical marijuana.

Some advocates, like Dr. Lester Grinspoon, an associate professor emeritus of psychiatry at Harvard University, suggest that medical marijuana's stigma has less to do with questions of clinical efficacy and more to do with its association, in popular culture, with illicit pleasure and addiction.

Others, like Alberto Torrico of Fremont, the majority leader of the California Assembly, argue for more oversight in general. "The marijuana is a lot more powerful these days than when we were growing up, and too much is being dispensed for nonmedical reasons," he said in an interview last week, bluntly adding, "Any children being given medical marijuana is unacceptable."

As advocates of increased acceptance try to win support, they may find their serious arguments compromised by the dispensaries' playful atmosphere.

OrganiCann, a dispensary in Santa Rosa, has a Web site advertisement listing the "medible of the week" - butterscotch rock candy - invitingly photographed in a gift box with a ribbon. OrganiCann also offers a 10 percent discount, every Friday, for customers with a valid student ID.

Katherine Ellison is a Pulitzer-prize winning reporter and author, most recently, of "Buzz: A Year of Paying Attention," to be published by Hyperion this fall.
http://www.katherineellison.com
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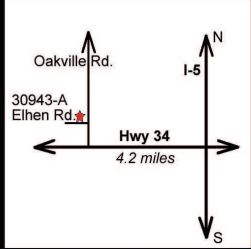
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Hemp - The Sustainable Plant With Many Uses

By David Rzepka

In 1937, congress placed restrictions on growing hemp that all but effectively lead to a prohibition of hemp production in the United States. In order to grow hemp in the US you need a permit from the DEA. This permit has been described like a blind person trying to get a drivers licence, basically an impossible permit to get approved.

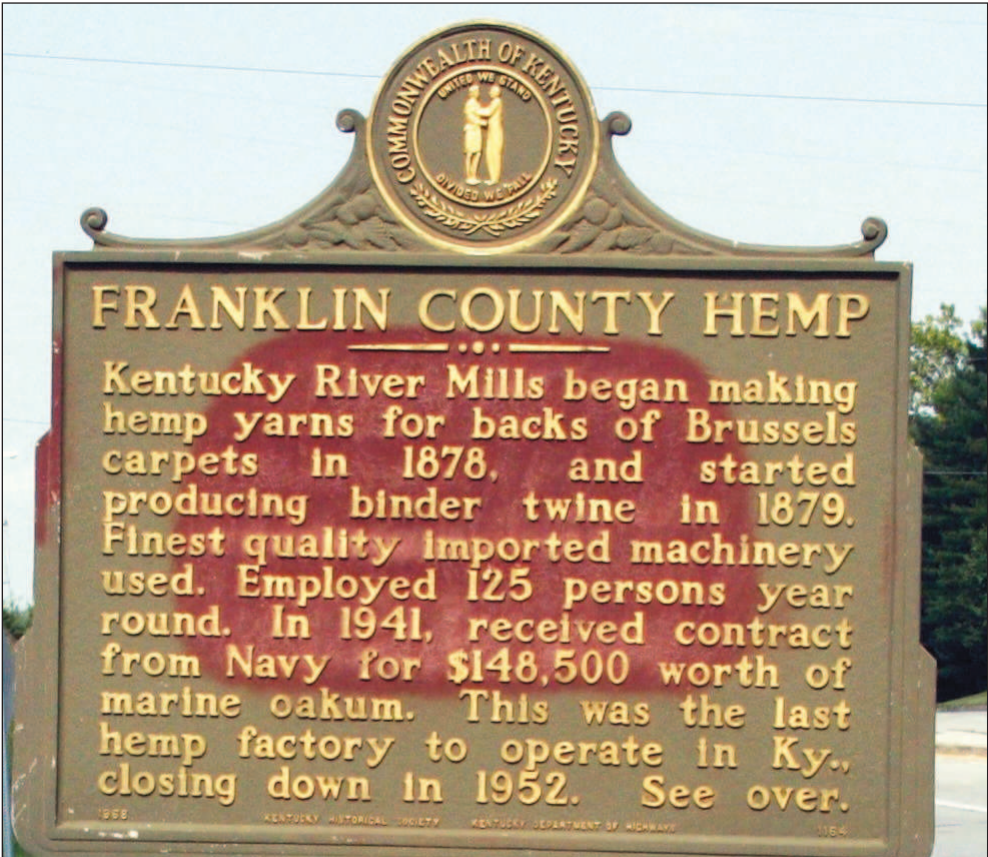
Most people assume that hemp is the same thing as the Marijuana that is smoked to get high. The fact is that THC (Tetrahydrocannabinol the main psychoactive substance in Marijuana) is less than 1% in the hemp plant and the current legal level for cultivation in the Canada and Europe is 0.3%. These THC levels are so low that you would have to smoke a bushel of Hemp to get high, In reality you would probably die of smoke inhalation before you would catch a buzz.

There is a growing movement to allow hemp production in the United States in the recent years. States like Vermont, Oregon and North Dakota have passed laws that would enable the farming of Hemp. These states and a growing number of people are beginning to see the environmental and personal benefits of hemp.

Hemp is a wonder plant. It can be used to green the manufacturing of a variety of products such as; paper, fabrics, bio-fuels, biodegradable plastics, food and oil.

But that's not the best part about hemp. It is truly one of the most sustainable plants. The plant has a very short growth cycle so it can be re-grown over and over during the growing season. The plant can be grown with little or no pesticides. It improves soil structure by replenishing the soil with nutrients. But the most interesting benefit of hemp has come out of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster site where it has been planted to clean up the radioactive toxins from the ground using the process of phytoremediation.

In the use of cosmetic innovation Hemp seed oil is almost nirvana. It has been know to dramatically help with eczema. It contains a high amount of polyunsaturated essential fatty acids (linoleic and linolenic acids), which makes it an important ingredient in anti-inflammatory skin care formulations. Hemp has also been found to have



Hemp was a VERY profitable crop for over a century in America, as this Historical Marker explains in Kentucky. The other side of this sign says: First crop grown, 1775. From 1840 to 1860, Ky.'s production largest in U.S. Peak in 1850 was 40,000 tons, with value of \$5,000,000. Scores of factories made twine, rope, gunny sacks, bags for cotton picking and marketing. State's largest cash crop until 1915. Market lost to imported jute, freed of tariff. As war measure, hemp grown again during World War. Photo from www.hmb.org by Ginger Drenning

fantastic anti-aging and moisture balancing properties.

Hemp is an amazing plant, its sustainable, its healthy, its productive, and it can be a easy cash crop for farmers to grow. Maybe its time to search out hemp based products to make our world just a bit greener.

This information has not been approved by the Food and Drug Administration as a medical cure for any illness. It is suggested that you consult with your physician regarding medical interactions.

David Rzepka is the owner of Beecology.com, a natural bath and body product company. A beekeeper since 2004, He has tinkered with natural cosmetic formulations using the wonders of the hive. He uses honey, bees wax, and propolis to create some of the finest natural based lip, skin and hair products. He has been seen on Fox TV and local news media. Save 30% on your first order when you go to <http://www.beecology.com/> Article Source: http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=David_Rzepka



- herbicides
- has deep roots which assist in controlling soil erosion
 - produces 250% more fibers per acre than cotton and some 600% more than flax

Hemp is classified as an Eco textile meaning it requires less energy, produces less carbon and, therefore, creates less pollution than other forms of fabric manufacturing.

Hemp fibers are very much like cotton fibers only three times stronger and far more absorbent making them perfect for infants and adults. Hemp fibers have a natural resistance to mold and mildew and tests have shown that hemp material, with a close weave, repel up to 95% of U.V. rays while other materials such as cotton, repel between 30% and 90%.



100% Hemp Muslin clothing, such as this shirt, can last many years

Hemp fabric is more course than cotton but can be blended with other natural fibers such as cottons and silk to produce a soft, durable and fashionable material. Hemp clothing is wrinkle free with the ability to retain it shape after years of use. When compared to cotton hemp's porous nature allows it to be cool in summer but its insulation qualities mean that hemp clothing is also warm in winter. Its ability to absorb moisture means that dyes are more effective and are resistant to fading.

It seems like hemp has it all. It's good for the environment, it's good for your health and it's good for your pocket. So why not clothing made from hemp?

Greg Richmond is partner in Seekushop Marketing which promotes the marketing of niche products including designer baby wear from <http://www.aussieclothesforkids.com> Article Source: <http://EzineArticles.com>  t=Greg_Richmond

Dont Miss our Cultivation Section on Page 20 & 21



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Hemp Oil is One of the Few Oils That is Rich in Essential Fatty Acids (EFAs) Omega-3, -6, & -9

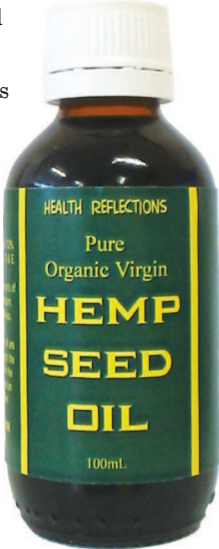
By Sue Graumann

Introduction

Hemp oil is one of the few oils that is rich in Essential Fatty Acids (EFAs). Essential Fatty Acids are fats that the body requires for healthy cells but cannot manufacture by itself. EFAs include Polyunsaturated Fatty Acids (PUFAs), Omega-3, Omega-6, Omega-9, Linoleic Acid and Gamma Linolenic Acid (GLA). Although it is very important in skin care and maintenance, GLAs are rarely found in natural oils. Some excellent sources are from the seeds of evening primrose, borage and hemp. Research

In cosmetic testing, EFAs have been shown to play a preventive role in the skin aging process. The outflow of moisture from the body is regulated by a barrier which the skin forms to protect itself from the external environment. EFAs, particularly Omega-6 and GLA, preserve the "barrier function" of cell membranes. Skin which is deficient in these nutrients allows more moisture loss and can show dryness and loss of elasticity. PUFAs have also been shown to prevent skin dryness and to help restore damaged skin to normal.

Omega 6 and Omega 3 EFA's are required more in our diet than any other vitamin, and yet our



bodies do not produce them naturally. These oils must be ingested in their pure form, as they can not be metabolized from other food sources. These healing enzymes can be absorbed directly into the skin to replenish missing oils, so they are ideally suited for many cosmetics and skin care products.

Hemp oil also provides an ample supply of carotene, phytosterols, and phospholipids, in addition to a large number of minerals including: calcium, sulfur, magnesium, phosphorus and potassium. It is also a good source of chlorophyll.

Due to its rich content of Essential Fatty Acids, hemp seed oil is a perfect choice for skin, hair & lip care. Hemp Oil Naturally Replenishes Skin Moisture!

Hemp Oil is the only oil of its kind that helps soothe skin irritation and dryness! If you suffer from:

- Ecze**
- ma**
- Psoriasis**
- Skin cracking, scaling or sagging**
- Chapped lips**
- Dry hair**
- Substantially improve your skin's natural appearance and elasticity**

Conclusion

When combined with other naturally derived ingredients such as carrier oils, herbs and essential oils, it offers an exceptional solution to many skin types and conditons. In addition, hemp helps to preserve eco-systems that are subject to toxic chemically laden products on a daily basis.

Everyone can truly benefit from this versatile plant.

Continuous use of skin-care products containing Omega-6 fatty acids can restore your skin's natural glow and bring a healthy sheen to your hair and lips. Because hemp oil is an excellent source of Omega fatty acids, adding it to your diet can substantially improve your skin's natural appearance and elasticity. The result is healthy, moisturized and silky smooth skin! Who knew cooking oil could do all that!

To learn more visit <http://organic-natural-pesticide-free.com/hemp-oil.html>. Substantially improve your skin's natural appearance and elasticity. Author Sue Graumann Organic Natural Skin Care Wholesale Essential.

Article Source: http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Sue_Graumann



Growing Industrial Hemp

By Paul Benhaim
Australian Hemp Foundation

Otherwise known as Cannabis, hemp is an industrial fibre. Defined in various ways depending on which country you are in. Most countries view THC < 1% to be a non-drug form of cannabis (cannabis for drug use is usually over 10% THC). Smoking hemp is more likely to produce a headache than anything else! There are a variety of well-known uses for hemp; today we will be examining how to farm this plant legally. Non Toxic Agriculture

Hemp growing shares many of the attributes of cannabis cultivation. Hemp and cannabis grow and look the same way. Hemp requires no pesticides or herbicides to grow successfully In comparison to cotton, this is important, as cotton crops have 24% of the world's pesticides sprayed on them, but cotton only has a 2.4% global market share! Yields

The crop must be grown in well-fertilised soil for a good yield. Hemp is versatile enough to grow in different soil types but grows best in sandier soils. Like many crops, the better the soil, the higher the yield. As with all plants, nutrition is gained from the soil in which the plant grows. Some believe this is what prevented hemp from remaining a mainstream crop. Mono-cultured hemp plantations can only be supported by the addition of chemicals.

Industrial hemp is ideal therefore, in crop rotation farming where a sustainable permaculture is established. With a large tap root, hemp is able to extract nutrients from deep within the soil. As the plants flower and are harvested, falling leaves mulch into useful nutrition to keep the soil healthy. The yield from a hectare of the plant is in the region of 9 tons of fibre in <100 days and 2 tons of seed in < 120 days! Using quality seeds and planting with the correct spacing is the best way to ensure an optimal yield. Latitude is an important factor to consider when choosing seed variety. Before planting the first crop, the condition of the existing soil should be assessed.

Harvesting
Determining harvest time will depend upon either the maturity of the seed or the level of defoliation. Combine harvesters are the usual method of collecting seed from the crop whereas fibre is mowed/cut. Harvest timing can be affected by the hemp variety and the type of crop required. Alternative harvesting techniques include;

Baling
The crop is collected complete and baled on-site ready for the pulping process. For fiber and hurd/shiv production, the Hemp stalk must be collected complete.

Retting
This is a naturally organic process where the hurd/shiv is separated from the fibre. It is important to get a good ret because it plays an important part in fibre quality and helps in processing. Retting can be achieved through

- numerous methods;**
- Dew retting**
- Water Retting**
- Chemical Retting**
- Crailar Enzyme retting**

Depending on the method used it takes between 1 and 5 weeks to complete hemp retting. Achieving a good yield and high quality hemp fiber is dependent upon timing the retting correctly. Before baling and storage, the windrows should be turned so that the retting is even across the crop.

Before baling and storage, the windrows should be turned so that the retting is even across the crop. A chaffer with sieve used in-field will produce roughly a 25% cross contamination of the hurd/fibre mix.

Decortication
Separation of the fibre from the hurd is called decortication and usually requires a sizeable building. To be profitable, a decortication facility has to achieve high throughput; such plants cost around \$10 to build. Around the world today there are only 10 major decortication facilities. MDF production also requires a disk refiner. Textile production will usually require scotching, hackling and combing.

Harvesting Operations
Where the crop is to be utilized for textile manufacture, the stalks should be cut in the early flowering stage (before the seeds set), or if male, in the pollinating phase. Considerable lignification occurs in post-seed production plant fiber and results in hemp that can only be used in industrial non-woven applications. Considerable lignification occurs in post-seed production plant fiber and results in hemp that can only be used in industrial non-woven applications. Lower yields will result from stalks cut after seed maturity. Seed crops are gathered with a combine harvester operating at high speed, which is modified to cut the top of the plant and thresh the retained seed heads. During the harvest, a narrowed chopper can be used to reduce blockages. Combine harvesters can be conventional or axial flow; both are suitable for hemp harvests. The remaining stalks standing in the field are left to dry completely, are cut, trimmed for length and then pressed into bales.

Weather Implications

The weather at the beginning and ending of a hemp crop is critical to the success of a harvest. A lack of rain in the beginning stages significantly reduces growth. At the end of the crop, too much rain will induce a retting and rotting phase which can affect yields considerably. Processing & Storage

A winnower can be used in-field to clean the harvested seed crop. The choice of hemp see variety will determine the clod sieve aperture. Slits at 5-6mm and elongated slots of 2mm are recommended. Without correct treatment it is difficult to remove the pericarp (husk); to produce oil with a low THC content, this is a crucial process. Hemp seed harvests should be dried until the moisture content reaches 12%, storage areas need to be dark and cool at around 4 degrees C with low humidity. This will ensure an approximate 80% germination rate for the 1st 2 years, with following years' rates reducing considerably. The stem and small root balls remaining in the field can be tilled back into the soil adding nutrients for further crops. Hemp plants are utilized fully; parts being wither processed industrially or returned back to the soil as nutrient. Even the residues left behind from industrial processes are used to make fuel and plastics.

Paul Benhaim is a recognized world-authority in hemp research and development, as well as a published author of Hemp-related books and DVDs. He manages the world's most popular Hemp web sites and advises a number of international companies and individuals through Start A Hemp Business. Paul is founder of the Australian Hemp Foundation, representing the national hemp industry and state associations in promoting the commercial growth of the industrial hemp industry. As well as acting as an independent consultant and mentor to those interested in business, usually the hemp business, Paul is CEO and Director of cutting edge Hemp companies involved with growing and hemp plastic and hemp foods products as well as Principle and Founder of a Hemp School. Article Source: http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Paul_Benhaim



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Wake-N-No Bake Cookies

By Justin Jenkins
Oregon Cannabis Connection

- Ingredients:
- 2 cups sugar
 - 1 cup can abutter
 - 1 cup milk
 - 3 tablespoons cocoa
 - 3 cups quick oats
 - 1 teaspoon salt
 - 1 teaspoon vanilla extract



Directions: In a large saucepan, add the sugar, butter milk and cocoa. Bring to a rapid boil, and continue to cook for 2 minutes. Remove from heat and add the oats, salt, and vanilla. Using an ice cream scooper, drop onto wax paper and let cool. Enjoy, but know that these are strong so start with one and wait about 20 minutes before having more.

Jalapeno Ganja Muffins

By Kristi Anderson
Oregon Cannabis Connection

- Ingredients
- 1/2 cup cannabutter
 - 1/3 cup raw sugar
 - 2 large eggs
 - 8 ounces creamed corn
 - 1 cup sour cream
 - 1/2 teaspoon sea salt
 - 1 tablespoon baking powder
 - 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
 - 1 cup grated sharp cheddar cheese
 - 1/4 cup lemon zest
 - 1/2 cup chopped jalapeno peppers
 - 1 1/2 cups yellow corn meal



Directions: In a large bowl, cream together the cannabutter, sugar, eggs, creamed corn, and sour cream. Sift the salt, baking powder, and flour; and then combine with the creamed mixture. Stir in grated cheese, lemon zest, peppers, and corn meal. If necessary, adjust the taste with a little bit of sugar at a time. Grease muffin tins with cannabutter, and fill the cups 2/3 full. Bake in preheated 450 degree F oven for 18-20 minutes.

Medical cannabis consumption can be unpredictable, always start with a quarter serving and give it time. Effects can take up to an hour and sometimes longer. If you have doubts, you should contact a cannabis clinician about dosage.

Glycerin Cannabis Tincture



By Kristi Anderson
Oregon Cannabis Connection

Crock Pot Method

NOTE: This make s a lot and can be cut in half.

- 1 gallon (64 fl oz) of U.S.P. Food Grade Glycerin
- 84 grams (3 oz) of trimmings (or 70g/2.5oz if using quality buds)
- A coffee herb grinder or any other object to finely grind your ganja
- A crock pot with a very low setting
- Cheesecloth or fine mesh strainer

1. Set the crock pot to low. If possible, keep the crock pot on a 'Keep Warm' setting; some crock pots will burn the tincture even at a low setting so take warning!
2. Grind up your cannabis as finely as possible using the coffee grinder or other method.
3. Place the glycerin and cannabis in the crock pot.
4. Let sit for 6-24 hours, stirring it occasionally.
5. Let cool a good 20 min, maybe longer as the glycerin will be very hot!
6. Strain with cheesecloth or fine mesh strainer (a paper coffee filter will not work). This will be a long process because the glycerin is very slow moving and sticky. It is well worth it though!

You can store this in the fridge. A drop or dropper full under the tongue is enough to ease pain. Test small amounts before moving on to larger doses.



Space Pops

By Kristi Anderson
Oregon Cannabis Connection

- Ingredients:
- 1 cup sugar
 - 1/3 cup corn syrup
 - 1/2 cup water
 - 1/4 teaspoon cream of tartar
 - 1/4 to 1 teaspoon flavoring
 - Liquid food coloring
 - 1 to 2 teaspoon(s) citric acid (optional)
 - 3 tablespoons cannabis tincture



- Directions:
1. Prepare either a marble slab or an upside-down cookie sheet (air underneath the cookie sheet will help the candy to cool faster), by covering it with parchment paper and spraying it with oil. If you're using molds, prepare the molds with lollipop sticks, spray with oil, and place them on a cookie sheet or marble slab.
 2. In your pan over medium heat, stir together the sugar, corn syrup and water, and cream of tartar with a wooden spoon until the sugar crystals dissolve.
 3. Continue to stir, using a pastry brush dampened with warm water to dissolve any crystals clinging to the sides of the pan, then stop stirring as soon as the syrup starts to boil.
 4. Place the candy thermometer in the pan, being careful not to let it touch the bottom or sides, and let the syrup boil without stirring until the thermometer just reaches 300 degrees F (hard-crack stage).
 5. Remove the pan from the heat immediately and let the syrup cool to about 275 degrees F before adding flavor, color, cannabis tincture and citric acid (adding it sooner causes most of the flavor to cook away).
 - Caution: Be careful! The sugar syrup is extremely hot If you burn yourself, run cold water over your burn for several minutes, but do not apply ice.
 6. Working quickly, pour the syrup into the prepared molds and let cool for about 10 minutes. If you're not using molds, pour small (2-inch) circles onto the prepared marble slab or cookie sheet and place a lollipop stick in each one, twisting the stick to be sure it's covered with candy. (It helps to have a friend do this since you need to work quickly.)
 7. Let the lollipops cool for at least 10 minutes, until they are hard. Wrap individually in plastic wrap or cellophane and seal with tape or twist ties. Store in a cool, dry place.

Tip: It is best not to make lollipops on a rainy or humid day. Cooking candy syrup to the desired temperature means achieving a certain ratio of sugar to moisture in the candy. On a humid day, once the candy has cooled to the point where it is no longer evaporating moisture into the air, it can actually start reabsorbing moisture from the air. This can make the resulting candy softer than it is supposed to be.

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What Does it Cost Us to Produce Medical Marijuana Indoors in Oregon?

By Mike Mullin
Master Gardener,
Stoney Girl Gardens



Most patients have never had a garden. DHS statistics show this. Sure lots of patients have attempted this in one way or another. And although these attempts may have been less than successful, the fact that the patient grew their own made it incredible. Most patients have a story about their experience, and feel somewhat educated (even if not successful) about the process. Unfortunately most of these micro gardens are not productive and are often abandoned. In reality, it takes quite a bit of planning and investment to get anywhere, or at least to make it worthwhile enough to continue.

Unless you have accomplished creating and maintaining a grow site for at least 4 patients for a period of 2 years, you have no idea what is involved. No, I am not saying you have to be a commercial producer, but you do need to know to what extent your grower goes to, to fully produce your medicine. Besides the years of experience, the hours of labor, the amount of time to be on-site garden tending instead of boating or camping, and all of the other sacrifices that must be made, there are hard costs associated with this operation. Besides putting my family at risk, opening my home and providing compliance and security 24/7, there are bills that must be paid, items that must be purchased, and equipment that must be maintained.

When discussing costs, most patients mistakenly refer to some homemade chart that tells them I should only be paying 25 bucks a month for each 1000 watt light, and that is all it takes. This is totally incorrect and the basic reason for this writing. I only wish I could work as cheaply as my electric bill is never under \$400 for a 4 - 1000 watt light operation (bill includes all the fans, pumps, etc.).

To begin with, electricity is our biggest cost. The power company is our secret partner. They make the most from Medical Marijuana grows, far beyond the grow shops which are the next biggest cost. You have fertilizers, grow mediums, fans, starter units, buckets, water, rent, insecticides, rooting compounds, ph stabilizers, pumps, hoses, lights, fixtures, light movers, ventilators, dehumidifiers, air conditioners, sprayers, tools, pans, vacuum, brooms, ropes, pulleys, hoods, seeds, C02, Controllers, Timers, cords, heaters and much more. There is more power in the garden than just lights.

Before you can even begin the process you need a location suitable to set up. The location must have or be able to have adequate electrical supply, security, height, space, environment and access. Access is important as you don't want to climb 50 stairs with a bucket of dirt. Electrical service is important as you don't want to install a new electrical panel, only add breakers and associated wiring

We will deal with the initial cost of setup first. Remember that there is ongoing maintenance which we will cover after setup. Maintenance must be performed on all equipment to the point that it is replaced. Replacement is required for some maintenance such as bulbs and pumps. This type of maintenance is called consumables, meaning you must replace, not repair the item.

I have created categories for costing of items. The category will have a name in bold at the top and a final cost next to it for each section. We have created this with a 4 patient grow capacity or 12 plants in each room (vegetation and bloom) for a total of 24 adult plant grow.

Location \$450 per month
So all this being said let's get started. We found the location. It is a bit larger house than we would otherwise need. It has a detached double car garage/shop with a nice, open power panel. The upgrade in renting this different home will cost us at least \$400 to \$500 more per month. After all a house with a garage/shop is more money to rent. Result: \$450 in direct cost to the Garden. Be it a shop, garage, extra bedroom or basement, the extra space is a cost, just the same as running a business out of your home if it requires an office or work space. Don't get excited we are figuring costs here, not what we charge a patient.



Having a small grow room can be a good way to grow your medicine. The costs will vary depending on the set-up.

Setup Electrical \$200 onetime fee
Some electrical improvement is usually needed. We like to keep it to just buying and installing breakers, wiring and outlets for the fans and lights. Total Cost of 6 new circuits: \$200.

Setup Room \$250 onetime fee
Usually a room will have setup. Be it a dividing wall, hanging reflective material, plastic covers on the floor, boarding up windows, sealing light leaks, etc. there is always a cost. This one is dependent on the area to be used and harder to attach an exact cost to however you will spend around \$250 on average in construction materials. This does not include ventilation and equipment; it just covers the basic room setup.

Ventilation \$230 onetime fee with annual maintenance of \$120 (\$10 monthly)
Ventilation requires a large fan to pull all the air quickly out of the grow site. This is a large, costly fan that vents to the outside (about \$130 used). We also included 4 good quality floor fans for room air movement (about \$20 each). Remember that there is replacement maintenance with your floor fans. They will need to be replaced at least once a year if not more. They will run 24/7 and need their own electrical circuit. This cost does not reflect air filters and odor control which can run you about \$500 more.

Lighting \$2844.80 onetime fee with monthly maintenance of \$133
The initial cost is for 4 1000watt fixtures with bulbs and two double four foot florescent for the starts. For the 1000 fixtures we use the new digital ballasts at \$398.95 each (\$1,585.80 total). For Bulbs we use 2-Hallides (\$149) and 2-Sodiums (\$240) which are replaced every 60 to 90 days. For hoods we use the Adjust-a-Wings at \$220 each. Throw in a Light Mover at \$260 plus new drive wheels annually and you're all set. Total onetime cost of lighting is \$2844.80 with monthly maintenance of \$133 not including electricity.

Environment: Controls, Timers, AC, Dehumidifier \$568 onetime fee
With monthly maintenance of \$30 Installing controls for the fans (temp and humidity at \$350), timers for the lights (\$80), a small room Air Conditioner (\$59), C02 tank and regulator (\$120), plugging in a dehumidifier (\$50 used) and small 1200 watt portable heater (\$29).

Gardening Supplies \$840 onetime and \$480 Monthly Ok, now we have a room ready to use. All we have to do is plant right? We will need containers (\$240 for 24) medium (\$400), fertilizers (\$80) and of course plants (\$120).

Clones \$223 onetime cost and \$123 Monthly
We forgot about the cuttings. We will need a cloner (\$89), nutrients (\$45), rooting compound (\$14), anti wilt (\$16), 4 inch and 6 inch containers (\$48), a 1020 starter pan (\$3), scissors (\$3), and a small hand sprayer (\$5). This will do for the cuttings. Aside from the cloner, scissors and sprayer, this is monthly.

Mites \$54 onetime and \$96 Monthly
We will also need a large 2 gallon sprayer (\$30) for treating for mites, and of course the insecticide (\$24 each application (per week)).

Water \$80 onetime
To treat our water we will need a water supply (free 55 gal barrel) with an electric submersible pump (\$140), and possibly an air pump too (\$19). In some cases we may need PH adjusters here (\$30). Don't forget the hose and nozzle (\$30).

Security \$0
We haven't even touched on security. Besides manning it 24/7 you need alarms. The more sophisticated you can make this the better; bars on windows, cameras, monitoring, etc. We won't even add a cost here for this writing.

Electricity \$380-\$420 Monthly (\$400 used in

Total calculation)
We include Lighting, Fans, Pumps, Motors, Monitors, Controllers, etc. Remember we have no cost for any labor, gas to run around and find all this stuff, shipping, installation, electrical, plumbing, carpentry, permits, transportation, security, nor overhead.

Summary
Total Onetime Cost: \$6,239.00
Total Monthly Maintenance: \$1,722.00
Monthly without Rent of \$450 \$1,272.00
Cost Per Patient (4 total) \$430.50 (\$318 less rent)
Cost to patient currently: \$100 as possible, but not usual
The following figures do not include cost of SETUP
Monthly Deficit per patient: \$330.50
Monthly Contribution from SG (X4) \$1,322
SG Annual Contribution: \$15,864
SG Contribution to Date: \$142,776

As you can see it is costly to produce medicine. Anytime you want to challenge your thoughts on why it costs more than 20 bucks an ounce to produce, you're welcome to give it a try. We think everyone should. Maybe someday this will be the case. At this time a grower must be prepared to make a substantial contribution to make it work. This is where outdoor production has an advantage. Where did these costs come from? These are our costs. Did we pump this up or inflate it? Quite the opposite as we have been very modest. I hired an electrician to do my work for example. Could we produce more or become sophisticated? Yes we can always increase production however not at a cost to quality. Sophistication is dependent on funding. How much did this produce? Not enough.

How much did this produce?
We use 2 rooms for a perpetual cycle. In the case of 4 patients there are 12 plants in vegetation and 12 plants in bloom at all times as possible. Because of the numbers on our program it is difficult to stage. The goal is to have both rooms full all the time.

When doing production with living things there can be lots of occurrences; from accidents to theft, from insects to temperature. As an example we are more productive when the outside temps are cool and we can control insects. It is common for many patients to only get one to three ounces from a plant in the late summer. We see this on our tours as we are often invited to view personal grows. For the following calculation we will assume that the patient is an average home grower. In many cases the patient does not have the means to become proficient. They often lack the space, time, money, energy or knowledge needed.

1 plant = 1 to 3 ounces quality usable medicine - Each patient has 3 plants in each room - Bloom room will produce one plant every week or 5 plants per month. 5 to 15 ounces can be produced per month. (Note that this is an estimate as we do not weigh). Each patient gets 1.25 to 3.75 ounces per month.

\$344 to \$114.80 per ounce depending on crop conditions is what it costs us to produce this. Remember that we are very strict in organics and like the organic section of the supermarket our fruit is natural, more tasty and delicious but our crops are not mass produced with chemicals.

It is fully dependant on crop conditions and plants. Different cuttings from the same plant can produce differing results of production. Season and Insects also play a part.

It is important to remember that METHODS of FARMING and HANDLING play an important part on production, quality, and safety of our medicine. Known industry procedures should be utilized or developed for good success. Agriculture is not a new business. Organics is making a comeback in a more scientific realm. A perfect example is the Oregon Wine industry making its name in organic fine wines, developing production level organics into agriculture standards. This is what we must develop for our industry. I often remind our growers that if the American Ag Industry took its advice from the Hydro shops, corn would cost 10 bucks a gram. Let us get our info from the guys who have been growing our

Cont. on Next Page

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Cost of Growing

Cont. from Prev. Pg.

our food for centuries.

The biggest cost in production of our meds is actually in the numbers we are allowed to grow. Working within confined limits such as we do, how would a regular farmer ever grow enough corn, tomatoes or grapes? As with any commodity, this is what truly keeps the price, and the cost of production high. Give us our warehouse, our tractor, our farm, and let us go to work. Quit playing numbers. We need to recognize the true needs of Oregon Patients.

Given the same room and utilizing a Sea of Green for say 120 plants, one could make it into real production. Think about a few hundred acres.

After looking at our operation it is conceivable that collectives would be a good deal as an option to patients and force us to be better producers in order to operate.

*A note about weights: they are estimated. Early in the program we used weights to assist us in dispensing, recording, tracking, monitoring and production data. As District sttorneys have made it known, in their opinion the presence of scales may constitute illegal activities. We ceased this and have lost access to this valuable data.

Maximizing Production

It is possible to maximize production. In this circumstance the farmer has spent extra efforts and costs to insure that the maximum production is achieved. Combined with perfect crop conditions such as weather, the farmer may see a crop that exceeds standards.

For the following calculation we will assume that the world is perfect all the time. The calculations below are the minimum bar we set for our own gardening program. That is, this is the minimum for production and the base line that must be exceeded. We prefer 5-9 ounce plants, depending on variety.

1 plant = 3 to 5 ounces quality usable medicine - Each patient has 3 plants in each room - Bloom room will produce one plant every week or 5 plants per month - 15 to 25 ounces can be produced per month. (Note that this is an estimate as we do not weigh)

\$114.80 to \$68.88 per ounce depending on crop conditions is what it costs us to produce this under maximum production with perfect conditions. Every crop is not perfect. Remember that we are very strict in organics and like the organic section of the supermarket our fruit is natural, more tasty and delicious but our crops are not mass produced with chemicals. Note that these costs apply to indoor gardening.

Hope this will help you identify your costs and assist in your next budget for setup. Happy Gardening!



WATCH FOR OUR NEW WASHINGTON CANNABIS CONNECTION COMING THIS SUMMER!

Humic and Folvic Acids

By MrFixit, Oregon Organiks

From the dawn of time, plants and animals have been decomposing and dissolved into the earth to give us our rich oil and gas deposits. However, this process stopped us from receiving important organic compounds, as well as the DNA of these ancient living life forms. The DNA and organic compounds of these plants and animals did not dissolve into oil or gas; instead, they were captured in shale millions of years ago. The complex of Humic and Fulvic acid has proven to be the most powerful organic poly-electrolyte antioxidant and free-radical scavenger known to man, serving to balance cell life.

Though virtually unknown to the average grower, there is perhaps no substance more vital to life, than the biologically derived compounds known as Humic and Fulvic acids. Fulvic acids enter into all life processes within plants. When necessary; they act as free-radical scavengers, supply vital electrolytes, enhance and transport nutrients, make water wetter, catalyze enzyme reactions, will naturally aerate the soil from the inside, increase assimilation, stimulate metabolism, chelate essential major and trace elements making them organic, and demonstrate amazing capacity for electrochemical balance.

They enhance plant circulatory systems and promote optimum plant respiration and transportation systems. They decrease plant stress and premature deterioration. They dramatically improve seed germination and promote greater fibrous root growth. They increase the size and numbers of legume root nodules and increase resistance to drought and insect infestation. It also will help to lower the pH of the soil and will flush high levels of salts out of the root zone. Humic substances serve as food stock for microorganisms, which in turn break them down into smaller units of high energy substances called fulvic acid.

Humic substances of high molecular weight, including humic acids, alter the physical characteristics of the soil while low molecular weight fulvic acids are involved in biochemical reactions that influence the plant's metabolic process. Humic and fulvic acids assist the plant in obtaining its complete nutrition. Humic Acid and Fulvic Acid are biostimulants and can be used on turf, trees, shrubs, bushes, beds, gardens and even on indoor plants. Almost anything that grows will benefit from Humic Acid. Both are indispensable.

In California and Oregon the term fulvic acid is not allowed to be used on any product label. Instead these state agencies consider fulvic and humic acid the same substance and require that only humic acid be used on labels. Humic Acid Extract is the common term used in these states for Fulvic Acid.

MrFixits Golden Humic Nectar is one of the most biologically active and available Humic Acid Extracts and has been tested extensively throughout the community with great results. You can find it at <http://www.oregonorganiks.com/> or ask your local hydro shop for it by name.

References for this article can be found at: <http://www.oregonorganiks.com/forums/viewtopic.php?f=29&t=23>



Grow Bigger and Better

By Joe Pietri "King of Nepal"

The biggest innovator in the history of cannabis in my generation is Reinhard Delp. Not only did he invent and holder of the patent for ice water extraction, he has been building flower forcers since 1992. His new solar powered Sun-gate is the leader of the industry. He was the first to feminize seeds and sell them in Europe in the late 90's. His process was done naturally, without the use of any chemicals.

No one is more copied but seldom matched than Mr. Delp, who to me is the top grower of our generation.

The first time he impressed me he showed me 2 plants, planted next to one another, 1 completely covered in powdery mildew, the other completely clean and beautiful. He was developing mildew and mold resistant genetics.

In the late 90's Reinhard brought back the gas lantern routine that you find in any college grade horticulture book, and applied it to cannabis. Cannabis needs only 13 hours to stay in growth state. The 18-6 lighting in growth pattern, actually stress your plants, that never get that much light in one-day outdoors. Cannabis is an outdoor plant. Growing indoors you should copy how it grows outdoors. No Cannabis growing in Afghanistan gets 18 hours of light in growth pattern. Most strains today have some part Indica in their genetic pool. Even equatorial strains don't get 18 hours of sun a day.

12-1 lighting is as follows 12 hours lights on, 5.5 lights off, 1-hour lights on, 5.5 lights off, and repeat schedule. The 1hour on in between off period fools the plants that stay in growth state! Your immediate savings is 5 hours in energy costs daily, as well as your bulbs and equipment lasting longer. But how do the plants react to this lighting schedule?

You see immediate growth response from your plants, they are happy from the added rest time. By day 14 the plants tripled in size. The plants are



bushy with twice as many bud sites without topping or bending, In fact when you top and stretch your plants out, you get many more bud sites than you would have had under 18-6 using same procedure of topping and stretching plant, your growing bigger and better and faster.

So your saving 5 hours daily in energy costs, as well as your excellerated growth pattern which also saves you time and energy and equipment use.

In the growth cycle, never use 12-12, start your flowering period at 11 hours on 13 hours off. When your are growing outdoors each day you get less and less sun light, you should copy the way the sun acts naturally in your indoor grow. So first 2 weeks of flower you go 11 on 13 off, the next 2 weeks you go down to 10.5 on 13.5 off, next 2 weeks 10 on 14 off, next two weeks 9.5 on 14.5 off and the last weeks of flower you should be at 9 hours on and 15 hours off. You'll get bigger and better buds by copying the way the sun light works on cannabis outdoors.

Cannabis is an outdoor plant and you should copy the way it grows outdoors indoors. The only thing that 18-6, and then 12-12 do is make the energy companies rich as well as the people who sell lights and equipment, the more you use the more you spend. 12-1 is a more natural way to grow indoors and you well have the best results you have ever had and save as much as 50% in energy costs.

Joe Pietri is the Author of King of Nepal Life before the drug wars, has been in cannatrade 50 years and started growing his own in 1970. Joe lived off and on over 20 years in Nepal, India Pakistan, Afghanistan , Thailand and Laos, he has traveled to most major cannabis producing countries back in the day. He is a medical provider these days and soon will be teaching his class Hash Masters 101. This class teaches you the history of medicinal hashish, as well as traditional dry seiving techniques. He also teaches you 12-1 grow bigger and better which reduces your production costs over 50% while gaining 25-35% more production. He also teaches a way to make THC oil safely and naturally. These classes for OMMP members only



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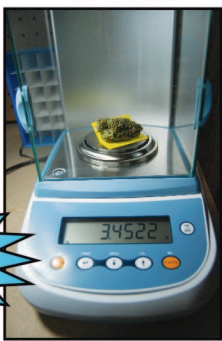
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